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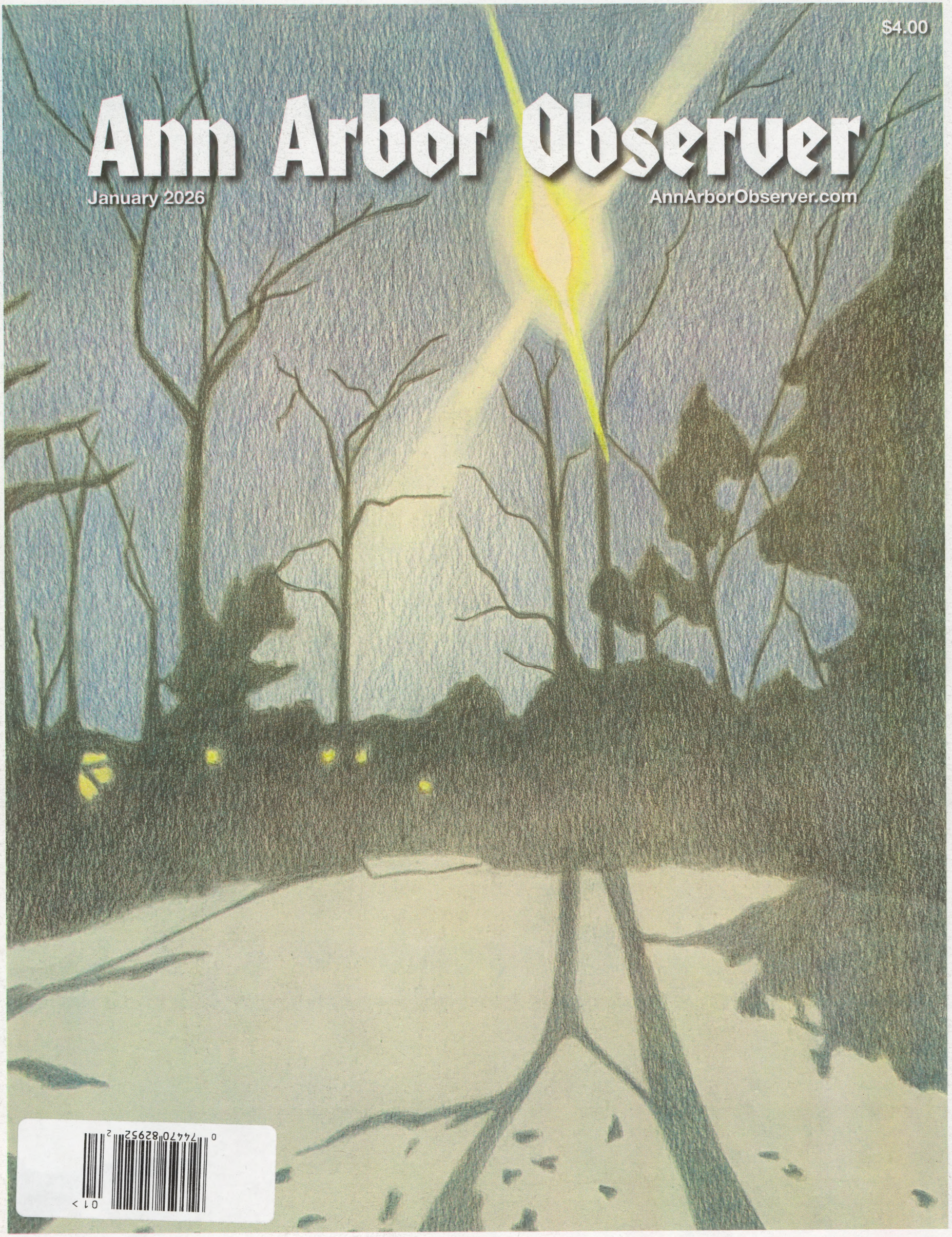

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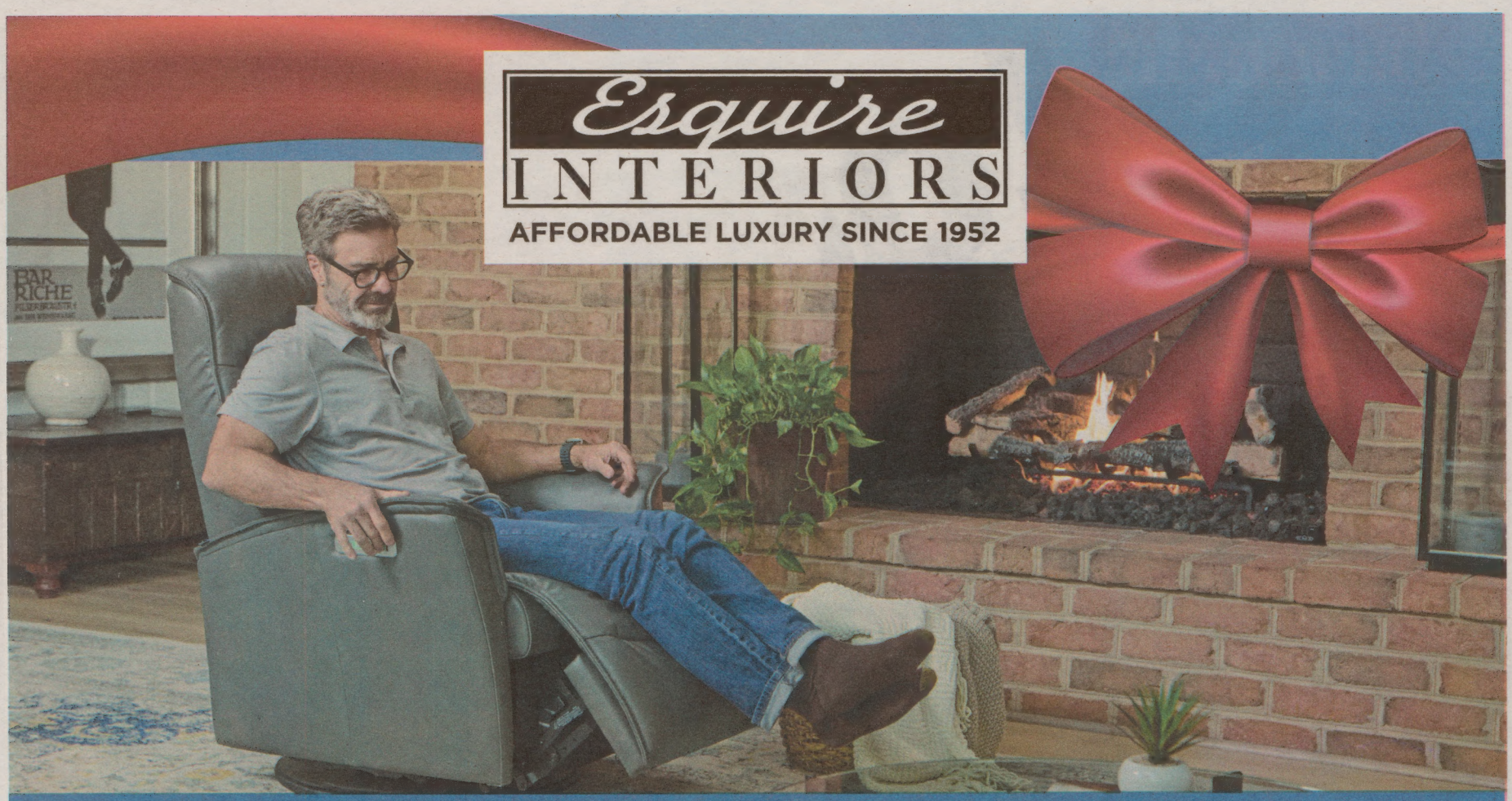

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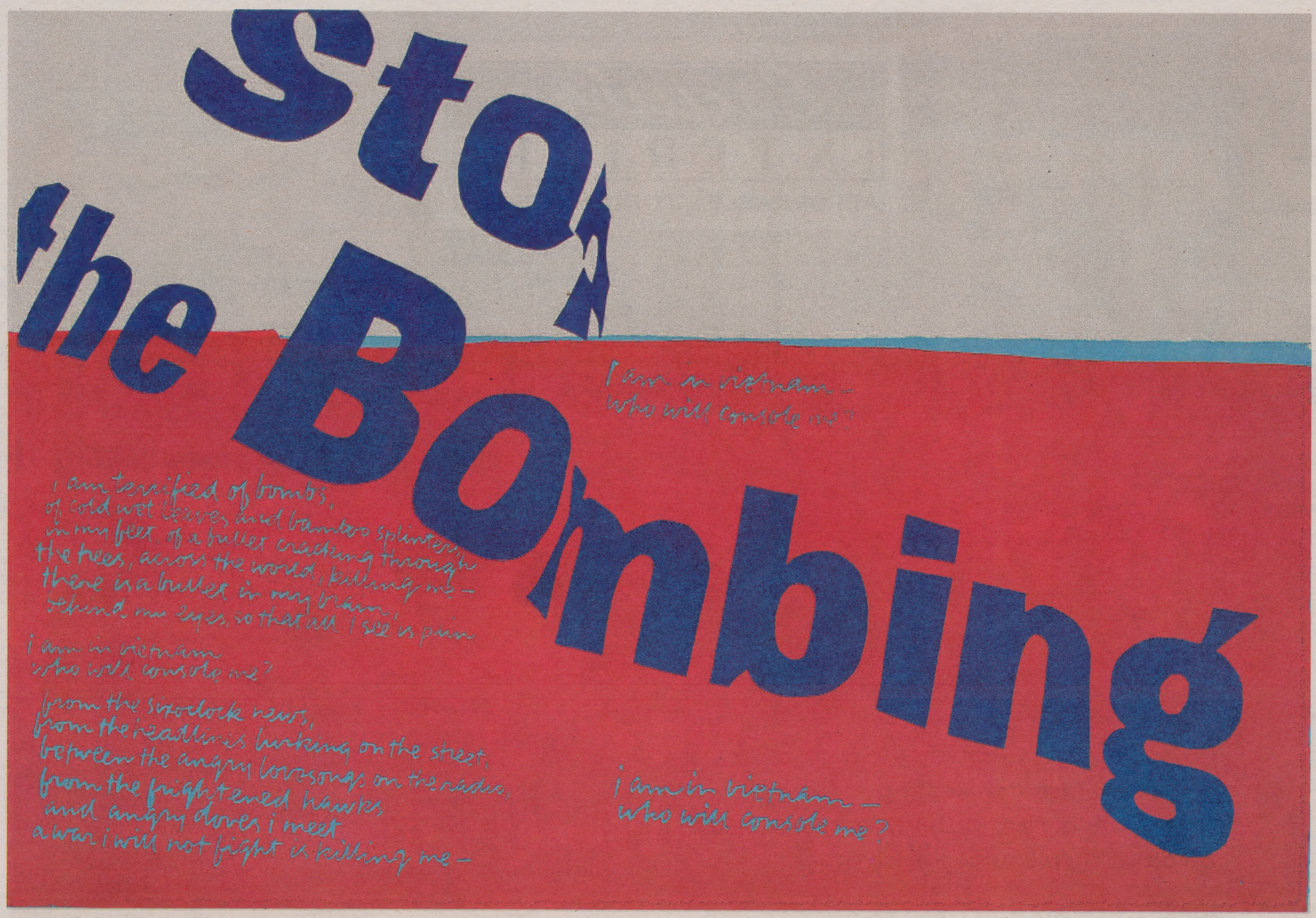

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Burns Park 1414 Wells St 734.994.1919	**Mon, Feb 2** 6:00-7:00 pm	
Carpenter 4250 Central Blvd 734.997.1214	**Wed, Feb 11** 6:00-7:00 pm	
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Slippery Sidewalks: With the recent snowfall and cold weather, it should come as no surprise that A2 Fix It, Ann Arbor's online system for reporting community issues—from potholes to broken streetlights to missed trash collections—has been inundated with complaints about ice-clad sidewalks. What is surprising is that some of these uncleared sidewalks are maintained by the city.

If it snows more than one inch, property owners and occupants are required by the city's snow removal ordinance to clear adjacent sidewalks within twenty-four hours. They are also required to treat any accumulations of ice within eighteen hours with sand or salt.

"City-maintained sidewalks," according to the city's website, "will be serviced by a city contractor during events with total snow accumulation depths greater than 1 inch and/or areas receiving freezing rain." No deadline is mentioned.

Affected city-maintained areas included North Main Park, Sculpture Plaza, and Liberty Plaza. Some of the complaints suggest the areas were left untreated long after recent snow events had ended. A December 16 ticket states that "the sidewalks at Hollywood Park and Kelly Park have been ice covered and hazardous since the snow on November 30." Broadway Bridge, a busy pedestrian route that provides access to the train station, is described as "impassable" in two separate complaints on December 12 and 15.

"It's better than it was last week," a daily user of the bridge told us when we inspected it on the evening of December 16. "But it's still bad, and I slipped over just yesterday."

"We hold ourselves to the same high standards we apply to everybody else," city spokesperson Robert Kellar says. "That's not to say we don't make mistakes or miss things. Everything is based on priorities, which means there are limits to how much we can do at any one time. We prioritize school routes, for example. With so many competing interests and only limited resources, things can get very complicated very quickly."

"We also recognize that property owners have a responsibility to take care of their sidewalks," he adds. "We encourage people to help their neighbors when they can."

For anyone struggling, the Ann Arbor Police Department operates a Snow Match Program that pairs eligible residents with volunteers. The city is also offering rebates through the end of January on snow shovels and electric snow blowers when residents trade in gas-powered equipment.

Something Blue: In October, the city began accepting applications from property owners for the Bluebelt program, a new effort designed to safeguard the sourcewater that feeds Ann Arbor's drinking water system.

The Bluebelt builds on the city's Greenbelt program. Launched in 2003 and funded through a voter-approved property tax millage, it permanently protects natural areas and agricultural land surrounding the city from being developed.

The Bluebelt encompasses the watersheds that feed Ann Arbor's drinking water sources, and preserves the land adjacent to upstream creeks, wetlands, and groundwater recharge areas—locations where water enters from the surface to replenish an underground aquifer.

While less visible than water treatment plants or filtration upgrades, this can play a crucial role in keeping pollution from entering the water supply in the first place.

Riparian buffers, undeveloped land next to water sources, can "slow and filter surface runoff and the sediment and excess nutrients that runoff carries before it hits our waterways," writes city land acquisition supervisor Rosie Pahl Donaldson. "Forested riparian buffers can keep the water at a lower temperature, which prevents acceleration of eutrophication," when excessive nutrients in water cause dense plant growth. "Protecting groundwater recharge areas helps to prevent flooding that would worsen runoff events."

The program works by purchasing conservation easements—legal agreements that allow landowners to keep ownership of their property while permanently limiting certain types of development. Easements are funded through the same millage that supports the Greenbelt. In some cases, the city may also partner with Washtenaw County or conservation nonprofits to acquire land outright for public preservation.

"Conservation easements can also offer peace of mind that one's home will continue to look more or less like home," Pahl Donaldson writes, "and that one's legacy associated with the land will remain."

Landowners don't need technical expertise to determine whether their property qualifies: all they need is a creek with a natural buffer, around 100 feet of vegetation on each side, or to be identified as an important groundwater recharge area. The city will coordinate with regional land conservancies to identify parcels for protection.

"While there are eligibility requirements, if your property is in the Bluebelt boundary, I would encourage you to reach out if you're at all interested in preserving your land," writes Pahl Donaldson. "There are several land preservation programs within the County, so even if a landowner is not eligible for the Bluebelt, staff will direct them to the best program for them."

Growing Pains: Barbara Gamm watched, worried, as nine trees fell in Scheffler Park near the construction site for Fire Station 4, touted as the city's first net-zero facility.

"Too many trees have been taken down, and we do not understand why," she says. "How many trees are they going to take down in the name of sustainability?"

Scheffler Park, on Huron Pkwy. on the southeast end of town, consists of two areas divided by Malletts Creek: the Edgewood side, where a baseball diamond is located, and the Platt/Huron Pkwy. side, which had contained a basketball court but is now filled with construction machinery grumbling among piles of detritus scattered across the backfilled park property.

But there's a plan behind this temporary disorder. The new 12,000-square-foot fire station, replacing the original at 2415 S. Huron Pkwy., will be built at Huron Pkwy. and Platt Rd., overlapping part of the 5.52-acre park. Its driveway is sited for the location of the basketball court, so they're building a new one on the Edgewood side.

The fire station project planners held public engagement events and worked with the Parks Commission to relocate the court, a move Ann Arbor fire chief Mike Kennedy says required the removal of nine trees. But, he adds, "the city requires that we replace any trees removed."

Other elements of this project include updating the stormwater system and clearing Malletts Creek of invasive buckthorn. Kennedy says the work will cost $200,000, "all of which is coming from the [$12.4 million] budget for the fire station."

Gamm shares that many in her neighborhood fear that "that the current destruction is a prelude to commercial or multifamily development on this land."

But Kennedy clarifies that "there is no new building happening on Scheffler Park, and it's not being rezoned or developed."

"This is all meant to be net positive, a new basketball court, better stormwater, removal of invasive species," he adds. "We're really trying to leave this better than we found it." ■

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Squeezed Out

The Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation 2025 Washtenaw County Housing Study revealed what Ann Arbor's working class has long known: if you make less than $50,000, you can't afford to live here.

MARK BIALEK

Ann Arbor Housing Commission executive director Jennifer Hall says that despite an increase in building costs, the city is still on track to create 1,500 units of affordable housing.

"A person working a lower-wage job and living on one income of no more than $50,000 found himself or herself facing middling options in the rental market, at best, and had no chance at homeownership," the report reads.

According to Zillow, the average rent for one-bedrooms in the city is $1,551, and the average home price is $504,072. As a result, finding affordable housing has become increasingly challenging for that income bracket, especially those who live alone. Priced out of Ann Arbor, workers in service, agriculture, retail, and other low-wage sectors often face a trade-off, such as long commutes, multiple roommates, or dependency on family members, romantic partners, or friends.

Hannah Weber, thirty-eight, is co-owner of Green Things Farm Collective. After years of renting in Ann Arbor Township, she bought a home in Ypsilanti Township in 2023, but "I wouldn't be able to own a house without family support," she says.

Liz Joseph, a sales manager with Green Things Farm Collective, makes $25 per hour and lives with her partner in Ann Arbor. Even with her partner covering the lion's share of their rent, her contribution consumes between 35 and 40 percent of her income. "If I was paying traditional rent in this area, it'd be like 80 percent to 90 percent of my income," she observes.

"This is an existential question about the soul of our city," says Phillis Engelbert, owner of Detroit Street Filling Station, the Lunch Room Bakery & Cafe, and North Star Lounge. "What does it say when people who are making a middle-class wage cannot afford to live in town?"

Engelbert bought her home on Ann Arbor's north side soon after moving to Ann Arbor in 1981, but today "even with a successful business … I most likely would not be able to live in Ann Arbor."

Many of her employees, including her son, live in Ypsilanti, where the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment is $995, and the average home price is $276,068. But public transportation doesn't run late enough for evening restaurant shifts and commuting by car is expensive.

"They're squeezed out," says Engelbert. "Ann Arbor is no longer for them, and that breaks my heart, because Ann Arbor should be for them. They play music, they make art, they serve food, you know, they do all sorts of things, but they can't live here."

When displaced Ann Arborites move to Ypsilanti, "that leaves less and less housing that would be considered affordable for people who are those single earners or people who are truly low-income making that $15 to $20 range," says Joye Bengston, former program director of Friends In Deed, an Ypsilanti-based nonprofit that provides emergency housing and utility assistance to county residents.

According to the 2015 Washtenaw County Housing Affordability and Equity Analysis, "Ypsilanti cannot remain the de facto affordable housing policy for Ann Arbor and Pittsfield; continuation of this default way of operating will ensure further decline of property values and fiscal stability." Yet ten years later, the 2025 Housing Study notes that the city of Ypsilanti contains 12.6 percent of the county's subsidized housing units and 5.4 percent of its population. "For Ypsilanti to become a viable market, and for the county's poor households to have a chance for upward mobility, development and redevelopment have to be inclusive on a countywide basis," it reads.

The Ann Arbor Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) looks to zoning and long-term density as solutions for the housing crunch, such as allowing Accessory Dwelling Units and multifamily housing in neighborhoods once zoned exclusively for single family homes, as well as encouraging mixed-use, transit-oriented development in certain corridors. But there is no guarantee that the type of housing that gets built will be affordable for the people who need it most.

In theory, when many units of market-rate housing are added to a community, those who can afford to will move in, freeing up the cheaper housing for lower-income renters. "If demand stays the same and supply increases, eventually owners at different price points will need to offer discounted rents to be competitive and attract new renters," says Jennifer Hall, executive director of the Ann Arbor Housing Commission. But this has not happened yet.

"I don't think the public has embraced the idea that I can't get my coffee or my dinner because there's no place for low-income people to live," Hall observes. "If people understood that, I think they'd be more supportive of affordable housing."

Ann Arbor passed its Affordable Housing Millage in 2020 with the goal of creating about 1,500 units of affordable housing. According to Hall, the housing commission remains on schedule with 136 units built and 1,071 units in the pipeline despite a 40–50 percent rise in building costs. That's only a start. The Housing Study states that Washtenaw County still needs 11,000 new units for households earning less than $35,000 and 8,700 new units for households earning at least $75,000.

Hall notes that progressive policies and local investment have attracted interest from "a couple dozen" affordable housing developers. But tariffs and soaring construction costs present challenges. "It's irrelevant what the zoning is and it's irrelevant what the need is if you can't get all the funding together to make it financially feasible," she says.

"I think across the board we need to start looking at housing as a necessity instead of a business," says Bengston. This would require an unprecedented level of government subsidies—unlikely when the White House has proposed slashing the budget for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by 44 percent in 2026. "I predict we will have more homelessness

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in the community because of some of these changes," says Hall.

Liz Joseph is staying with her job at Green Things Farm, but it isn't easy. "It takes really creative housing to be a farmer if you don't have generational wealth."

Big Gig

On a warm September evening last fall, country superstar Zach Bryan strode up the stairs inside Michigan Stadium, past the lettering that reads, "The Team The Team The Team," and entered the Big House to explosive cheers from 112,408 fans.

"I can't believe we're here," said Bryan, clad in a maize-and-blue Michigan jersey with No. 2, the number worn by Heisman Trophy winner Charles Woodson and more recently Blake Corum.

Near the top of the Big House, pastry chef Dante Kemble looked on at "one of the best concerts I've ever seen." He had missed out on February 12 when tickets sold out, but a friend sold him an extra for $115.

Bryan's appearance marked the first major concert held at Michigan Stadium—and a month later, U-M announced that an even bigger country performer, Morgan Wallen, will play two shows July 24 and 25. The concerts have one main purpose: to generate much-needed revenue.

In 2025, the athletic department committed to paying full scholarships to every athlete on Michigan's NCAA-recognized teams, and providing profit-sharing payments under its Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) program. Initially, those combined costs were estimated at around $60.5 million ("Sports for Sale," November 2025). But before the 2025 football season, Michigan was hit with NCAA sanctions related to a sign-stealing scandal that will cost an estimated $35 million, according to *Yahoo! Sports* ("Flag on the Play," September, 2025).

Since the Big House is under the athletic department's wing, the concerts are the equivalent of leasing the venue for private events. They don't require approval from the university, and so far, the only involvement by the Board of Regents was to approve a pyrotechnic request for Bryan's concert.

"Michigan Stadium is only in use for six to eight home football games a year," says Sarah Hubbard, a Republican regent from Okemos. "It's important to find other ways to use it."

On social media, numerous Michigan fans have questioned the department's choice of artists. In one Reddit post, residents questioned why U-M chose Morgan Wallen, who was suspended from his record label in 2021 for using a racial slur and arrested in 2024 for throwing a chair off of a six-story Nashville rooftop bar. (In February 2025, Zach Bryan was caught on camera using a homophobic slur.)

Some voiced a preference for a rock star like Bob Seger, who grew up in Ann Arbor (never mind that he's retired from touring), or Detroit's Eminem. But there's no questioning Bryan and Wallen's country credentials. Bryan, the number-five country artist in 2025 on Spotify, has sold 30 million albums, according to the Recording Industry Association of America. Wallen, who is Spotify's number-one country artist, has sold 41 million.

Hubbard says "it's a real dance" between the availability of the Big House and potential artists' schedules. Many major acts only tour in spring, summer, and early fall, and U-M can't schedule anything that would conflict with commencement. Moreover, she adds, "you have to find the intersection of an artist

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

A month after Zach Bryan's sold-out show, the U-M announced its next Big House performance: Morgan Wallen. The concerts will fund scholarships for U-M athletes, as well as profit-sharing agreements for its Name, Image, and Likeness program.

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who can sell out the stadium, and their schedule."

Ticket sales proved no problem for Bryan, whose seats started at $55 and ranged to $1,000, and sold out in two and a half hours. He also sold a record $5 million in merchandise at booths downtown and inside and outside the Big House, according to *Variety*. Wallen, meanwhile, is charging between $193 for standard tickets and $6,275 for VIP packages, and had tickets left at press time. While Bryan set a record for the largest ticketed audience to attend a U.S. concert, Wallen's concerts use a different stage configuration that allows for only 75,000 tickets each night, about 35,000 fewer than a typical game.

Hubbard says the concerts do not generate as much revenue as a football game, since it must be split with the performers. An athletic department spokesperson declined comment on the artists' cut, referring the Observer to the singers' management companies, which did not respond to requests for comment.

In contrast to football games, which routinely generate tickets for drunken or unruly behavior, the Ann Arbor Police Department did not arrest a single fan during Bryan's event, says department spokesperson Chris Page. Nevertheless, the length was a challenge for AAPD. Gates opened at 4 p.m., the first performance started at 6 p.m. and the star began his twenty-seven-song set at 9:30 p.m., sending fans home after midnight.

"It was a longer operational day, and officers worked longer shifts than they would on a football game day," Page says.

He says AAPD has gotten advance word before each concert was announced. But Taylor Bond, co-owner of Park N Party, which rents about 20,000 parking spaces for football games, says he had no heads-up for either the Bryan or Wallen dates.

The back-to-back events could be a challenge for the organizers, who must clear out and clean the Big House before letting the next audience in, Bond said.

"I'm not complaining about the opportunity. I just want to make sure I offer the best experience I can to those who are coming," Bond says. "It's going to be the third time around before we figure it out."

One local bride-to-be was distressed to learn that the Wallen concerts fall on the weekend she chose for her event. "We intentionally picked that Saturday anticipating that it would be a quiet weekend right after Art Fair weekend!" Amy Stark wrote to the Observer.

"Our many out-of-town guests will be in a scramble to find hotel rooms to stay, as many hotels around town are unwilling to offer room blocks or are priced well above a rate we can afford—including our wedding reception hotel, which is pricing rooms at $2,000 per night."

Creating a Dementia Friendly Community

"Dementia is not only emotionally upsetting, it's literally life-changing—and not just for the people diagnosed," says Jim Mangi. "Most people who are thrust into a job as a caregiver have no idea how best to handle the situation."

In 2011, when his wife, Kathleen Schmidt, was diagnosed with "young dementia" at age fifty-seven, Mangi sold his business and retired years earlier than he intended, entering a second career in caregiving out of necessity. Schmidt passed away in 2024 at age seventy.

Just before the pandemic hit, Mangi partnered with Holy Faith Church of

MARK BIALEK

Ann Arbor Kiwanis club member Jeanie Mack-Powers and Dementia Friendly Services founder Jim Mangi enjoy a Memory Cafe. These twice-monthly events for those with dementia and their caregivers offer games, snacks, music, and more.

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Saline to offer a ten-week education awareness program about dementia, which attracted listeners from all over the county. The packed lectures and follow-up questions convinced Mangi to launch a nonprofit, Dementia Friendly Saline, under the auspices of Dementia Friendly America. Its mission was to support Saline-area caregivers and their care receivers, and to educate the community about the special needs of this population. Michigan has about 202,800 residents with dementia.

Early in 2025, the organization extended its scope, and changed its name to Dementia Friendly Services, with a focus on the Washtenaw County community—including Ann Arbor.

After Ann Arbor Kiwanis Club member Jeannie Mack-Powers met Mangi at a special University of Michigan Museum of Art program for visitors with dementia, Kiwanis became a primary sponsor of the organization. Mack-Powers serves as the Kiwanis liaison to DFS. Mangi has offered Kiwanis members training about the needs of people living with dementia and their caregivers, and programming for this population.

The two organizations have also partnered on events. Just before Halloween, Kiwanis hosted "Fall Frolic," welcoming adults with memory loss and their caregivers to holiday fun, donning festive hats or robes and being treated to finger foods, sweet treats, a photo booth, musical performance, and prizes. The day ended with private Kiwanis Thrift Store shopping.

"This way, they can shop at their leisure with a Kiwanis member to guide them," Mack-Powers says. "They can buy something that catches their eye for a very few dollars, have fun, and feel they've accomplished something."

The next Kiwanis-hosted special daytime event is planned for this spring, with details and date to be announced.

Two afternoons a month, people with dementia and their caregivers gather at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Pittsfield Township for Memory Cafes, where they enjoy games, snacks, musical performances, crafts, drumming sessions, exercises, even occasional magic shows. "We've formed a solid, caring community, where caregivers and care receivers can have fun together," Mangi says. "We share concerns and celebrate even small successes."

"Kiwanis is working on ways to develop more interactions with the people at the Memory Cafes," Mack-Powers says. The two groups are planning to match Kiwanis volunteers with café volunteers for simple tasks, starting with sorting the piles of cards and envelopes donated to the Thrift Store. "We aim for a win-win situation, where people with dementia can get a feeling of accomplishment over a job well done, and the thrift store can definitely benefit from their help."

DFS's newest program is the DementiAwareness Theater, a series of one-act plays about dementia and caregiving. Each free performance is followed by group discussions with trained facilitators. On October 23, the organization presented *Steering Into the Skid* at the Unitarian Universalist Church. The next play, *Joy Ride in Memory Care* by local playwright Rick Sperling, has four performances scheduled at Forge Theater over the weekend of February 21.

"Our goal," says facilitator and actor Danette McCarthy, "is to assist community members and leaders to reconsider how they think about, and deal with memory loss and its increasing presence in their community. We help them become aware of local resources that assist persons living with dementia and their families."

"This is the first time in nine years that we have had a date together," she said through her tears. "We held hands and ate popcorn and laughed together just like we used to."

Mangi is also launching the Dementia Friendly Community Chorus in Ann Arbor. "Music is very important, very emotive to those with memory loss," he explains.

On the second Wednesday of every month, Emagine Movie Theater in Saline opens its doors and sponsors a movie ("usually an upbeat musical—Fred Astaire and *Mamma Mia!* are among the favorites"), providing popcorn, drinks, and sandwiches in an auditorium that keeps its lights on and its sound down.

One of Mangi's favorite stories involves one caregiver whose husband had been diagnosed a decade earlier. Mangi recalls, "I saw her sobbing when the movie ended, and I rushed up to ask her why."

"This is the first time in nine years that we have had a date together," she said through her tears. "We held hands and ate popcorn and laughed together just like we used to. It felt so good!"

"That's why we're here," Mangi told her.

For more information about DFS, email jim.dfservices@gmail.com or call (703) 395–3824.

calls & letters

A condo in the family

A headline in our December Home Sales column mistakenly said that developer Tom Fitzsimmons sold a condo unit that he'd built at 639 N. Fourth Ave. in 2004. The item itself had it right: the unit on December's map belonged to family members. His mother was the first owner, followed by his brother and sister-in-law; they were the sellers in October.

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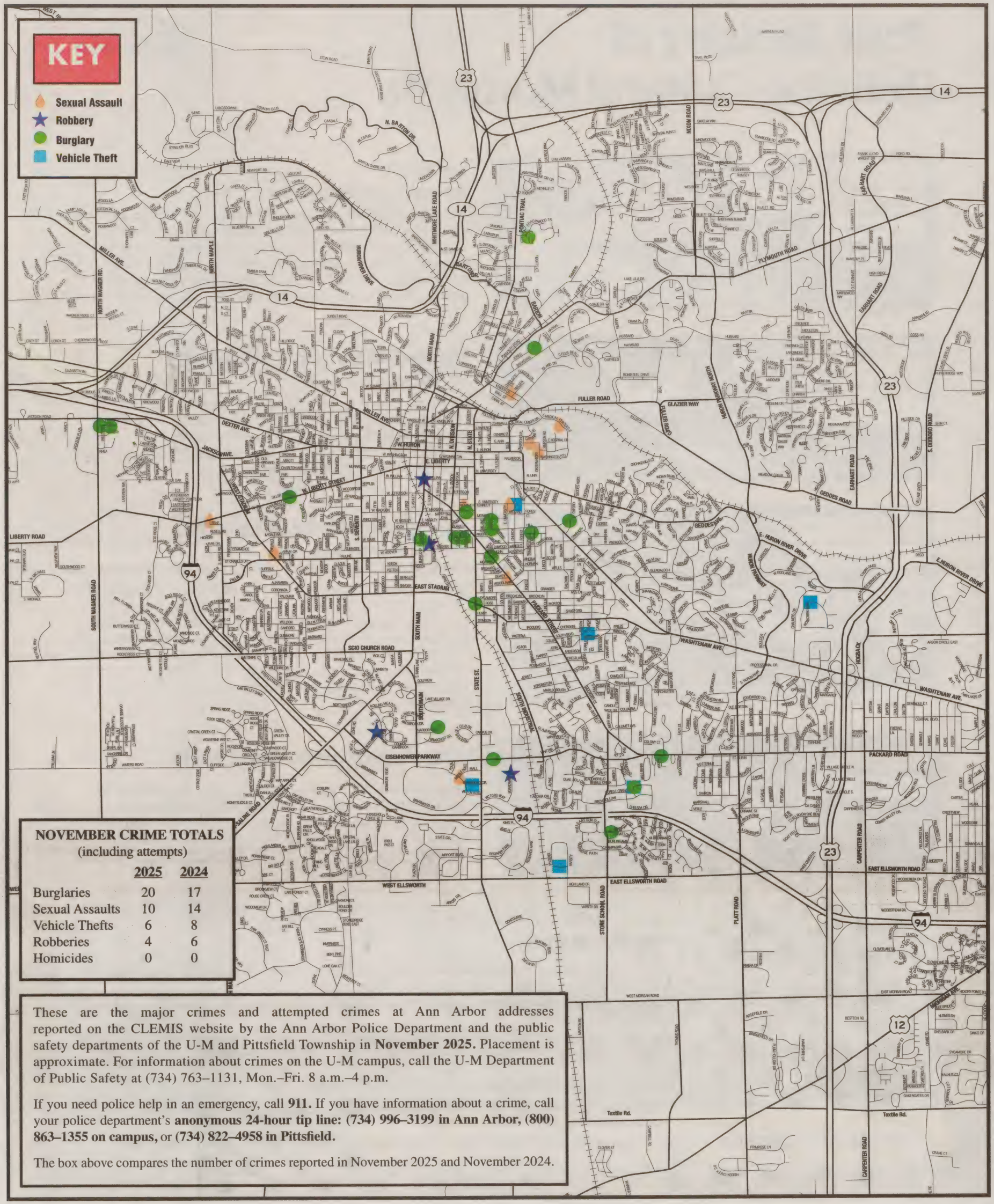

NOVEMBER CRIME TOTALS
(including attempts)

	2025	2024
Burglaries	20	17
Sexual Assaults	10	14
Vehicle Thefts	6	8
Robberies	4	6
Homicides	0	0

These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported on the CLEMIS website by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **November 2025.** Placement is approximate. For information about crimes on the U-M campus, call the U-M Department of Public Safety at (734) 763–1131, Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: (734) 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **(734) 822–4958 in Pittsfield.**

The box above compares the number of crimes reported in November 2025 and November 2024.

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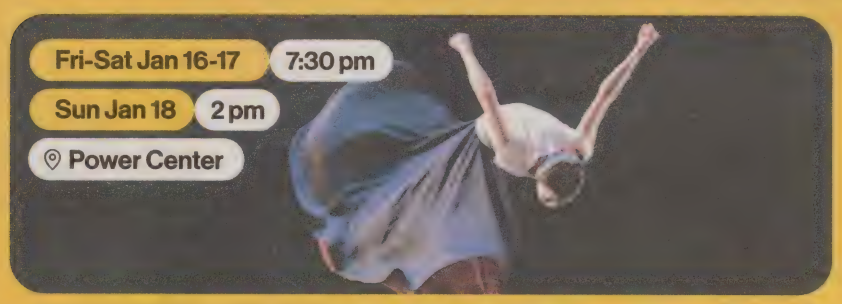

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Ann Arborites

John Hilton

Ann Arbor's observer

In the late 1970s, John Hilton was working nights installing windshield wiper motors in Ford Granadas at the Wayne assembly plant. One morning, he stopped at the former Kroger on Broadway St. and saw "a little green stand with Observers in it." The discovery would change his life.

Hilton says he "fell deeply in love" with the publication and what he calls its "affectionate, no bullshit" style. In 1982 he traded his $39,000 Ford job for a $13,500 staff writing position. Last October, he retired after thirty-nine years as the Observer's editor.

"I could not imagine a better life for myself," he says, "and it only existed because Don and Mary [Hunt] invented the Observer."

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

On a late fall afternoon, Hilton, seventy-three, sits at his old kitchen table in the front room of his circa 1880s home, just north of Kerrytown, where he's lived since 1980. His days are still busy with meetings as he and his business partner, retired Observer publisher Patricia Garcia, are in discussions with the Ann Arbor District Library about the magazine's future.

Hilton says that, hoping to impress the Hunts, he worked for a year to get a column published in *Newsweek*. Turns out, he says, "they wanted me to write about what I was interested in writing about." So in 1980, he pitched his first story about Eclipse, a bike luggage company on Jackson Rd.

After he joined the staff, he learned to edit by entering the Hunts' changes from their marked-up printouts into an Osborne 1 "luggable" computer. He says his high school debate skills supplied the "readiness to rethink" a story's structure.

In 1986, when the Hunts were ready to sell, they approached Hilton and his coworker Garcia. The pair took the leap with personal and bank loans.

Garcia says Hilton has a "brilliant mind" and represents "journalism with integrity." Because the partners often worked late nights, she'd sometimes find him taking a power nap under his desk during the day.

As they moved from their first offices above Kiddie Land children's store downtown (now Echelon restaurant) to the Kerrytown area, and finally to Winewood Ave. on the west side, Hilton says "there were all these daily stresses, but it was so exhilarating … to work with so many people who were as curious as I was."

A proud Yooper, Hilton grew up in a "big old house" in Marquette, the third of five children. His dad, a Northern Michigan University English professor, would load the kids into his used Hudson Wasp each morning and drive them to the university's K–8 laboratory school. Hilton's mom, the daughter of Presbyterian missionaries, was a community volunteer, and the author of *Northern Michigan University: The First 75 Years*.

"We were poor by the standards of the time," he says. "I remember not liking beef heart or beef tongue." He says he'd be relieved when his dad, an avid fly fisherman, would stock the freezer with brook trout.

Hilton and his siblings helped their father build his camp; they were paid by the weight of each cinder block they carried up the hill. If a toilet leaked at the house, Hilton fixed it, and when the exterior needed painting, he painted it.

In 1970 he followed his older sisters' "path to Michigan," where he chose a degree in general studies. "The one goal that I ever articulated," he says, "[was] that I wanted to know everything."

Hilton says he met his "first sweetie," Paula Shanks, when they lived at Vail House co-op where she was the work manager and he did maintenance. Hilton says when Shanks' father realized they were "living in sin," they married in 1973 in Ann Arbor District Court, then on the top floor of City Hall.

Hilton continued to work as a handyman during and immediately after college, often biking to gigs, until a fellow co-op member tipped him to the Ford job in 1976. In 1987, he and Paula welcomed daughter Kati Shanks (she works for Michigan Medicine and lives in Ypsi).

In 2004, at fifty-two, Paula died suddenly. Hilton says she'd come home from her job at *Mathematical Reviews* in the middle of the day feeling sick. She slept through the next day, and went to the emergency room the following morning. She died that night. An autopsy revealed she'd died of hypercalcemia triggered by an undetected cancer.

"When you've been part of a couple for so long you kind of don't know who you are," Hilton says. "And I was in that situation, losing my identity. We were always Paula and John, John and Paula."

Fatherhood (Kati was then a senior at Community High) and his job kept him going, and Observer staff provided a steady meal train.

In 2013 he married longtime staff writer Eve Silberman. He'd been shocked several years earlier when she revealed she "loved him as more than a friend," Silberman says. Still grieving Paula, Hilton wasn't ready, but years later, when he visited her condo to help her with a small repair, they shared their first kiss.

The couple kept their relationship a secret from staff for several months, until they announced their engagement. "You've never seen so many dumbfounded people in your life," Hilton laughs. They married at Temple Beth Emeth.

Silberman says when someone hasn't received an Observer issue, Hilton will deliver it himself, and that he's a "walking encyclopedia" of Ann Arbor business history. They often walk arm in arm to the Farmers Market and the downtown library. Hilton bakes their bread and makes a big batch of iced rooibos tea from TeaHaus each week. They often lie at opposite ends of their big living room couch, laptops open, with their toes touching.

The doorbell rings and Hilton opens the door to a neighbor who lives in Avalon Housing on Main. The man asks for cans and Hilton emerges from the kitchen with a garbage bag full.

Later, Hilton explains that helping his neighbors is "the example we were given" when he and Paula were welcomed into this "old Black neighborhood," which has since gentrified. He's forged lifelong bonds with the Baker family who lived next door, and fondly recalls huge Fourth of July cookouts hosted by the Seeleys.

With deadline days in his rearview, Hilton has a few retirement goals: road trips with Silberman, reading from his stacks of nonfiction books, tackling his list of home repairs—and always making time to greet the neighbors at his front door.

—Shelley Daily

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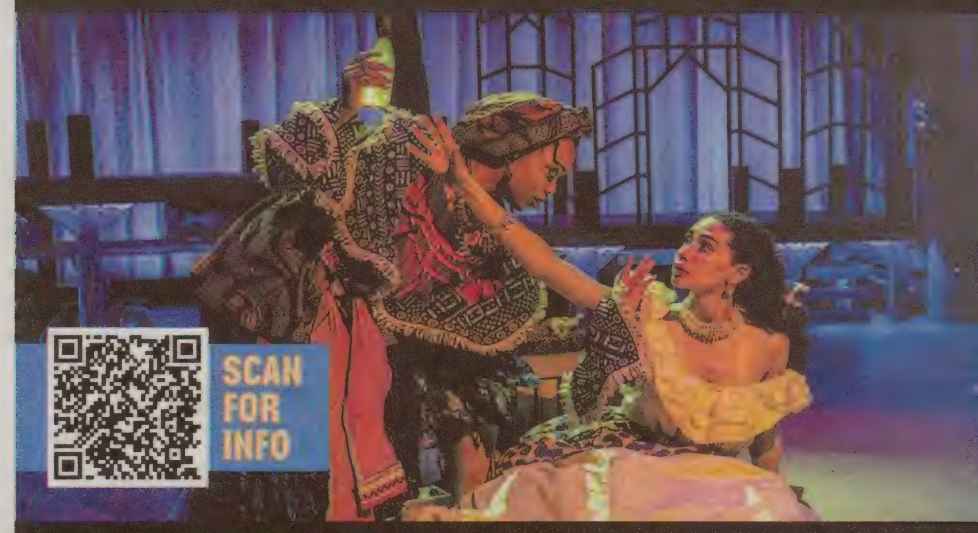

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Renee Baumunk's Wild Women Years

With costumes, games, and thrift-store treasures, her parties grew into a quirky, beloved tradition.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RENEE BAUMUNK

Renee Baumunk's (above center and below right) Wild Woman parties were known for their lavish decorations, elaborate costumes, and creative themes ranging from Wild Wild Women of the West to Disney Villainesses.

When Renee Baumunk bought the rambling brick Colonial on Kimberley Rd. in 1998, she was recently divorced and nearing retirement as an elementary art teacher. The house—built in 1925 by recycling and affordable housing advocate Charlie Bucholz—was full of character, with repurposed materials, original woodwork, and an expansive upstairs perfect for her two sons, Travis and Alex. What she didn't know was that this old house on a quiet, tree-lined road would become the birthplace of a beloved, long-running tradition: the Wild Women parties.

"You've got to read this book," were the magic words from her friend Kathy Ganz. The message of Susan Ariel Rainbow Kennedy's (SARK's) *Succulent Wild Woman*—urging women of any age to live with fullness, creativity, authenticity, and self-love—resonated with Renee immediately. When Kathy suggested celebrating her new home with a themed women-only party inspired by the book, Renee hesitated. Kathy sparked her enthusiasm, telling her there was no better way to break in her new home than to have a party.

Renee chose Mae West as her inaugural muse. As she puts it, "I love a theme. And being an art teacher, I could be on a theme and not let it go." She snail-mailed her handmade invitations for the August party, near West's birthday, later switching to email.

From the start, the parties had a purpose beyond fun. "The vast majority at the parties were women in recovery. It was an alcohol-free event," Renee says. "I never used alcohol or drugs at my Kimberley house. It was a safe place."

She vividly remembers the school secretary and her friends sashaying down the road in skintight gowns and oversized, feathered picture hats, holding cigarette holders. Her next-door neighbor admired the portable hot tub she'd rented for the occasion—an early signal that these gatherings would be anything but ordinary. Many of her teacher friends were on vacation, but the house overflowed with more than fifty people in attendance.

A trip to Hawaii inspired the Luau theme for the second party. A "beautiful powwow" in Colorado led to a Native American theme. The themes stacked up like costume boxes. "One of the more fun ones was number seven, Aliens. Number eight was Reincarnation—come as you were. Number nine was a Greek-themed Nine Muses."

Renee's signature became her theme-related decorations, games, and thrifted treasures. "I just like to give little gifts at the end," she says. "Later, I had books and gifts for people to choose from. It was all abundance. I always had the theme for the next year's party early on, so I could shop all year for theme-related gifts at thrift stores, garage sales, and Facebook Marketplace. How easy it was to find everything related to the theme was magical!

"In the last few years, people haven't wanted to take anything because everyone is downsizing. But it didn't stop me from finding things, though."

Food, for the most part, was up to guests. "I'm not a cook," she admits. "I will clean to an extent. I love decorating the most."

Miraculously, dishes often matched the theme. She recalls a friend making deviled eggs with little fish tails for her favorite party, Mermaids. Renee created a mermaid throne and backdrop, because as she explains, "Everything I love in life has to do with mermaids, shells, and the ocean."

The twentieth party was Western themed. "It took a couple of weeks to decorate." Her partner, Don Johnson, helped her reach the high spots. "He's a tall guy. He helped put everything up. I'm decorating, cleaning, and moving a lot of stuff."

It was a triumph—until it wasn't. "It was the most energy-driven decorating that I'd ever done. … I remember at the end of the night, standing on the porch saying goodbye when my back spasmed, and I couldn't move. And I thought, maybe I shouldn't do this anymore quite to this extent."

As the women aged and the summer heat became less tolerable, the parties shifted seasons. "All of us were aging, and in menopause, the house didn't have air conditioning, and having a summer party just wasn't fun anymore. So, the dates switched into the fall because it was cooler."

In 2020, Renee got the news that she was going to be a grandmother. "I looked around, and as much as I loved that house, my first thought was, 'I do not have a floor a baby could crawl on.'" The very next day, her sister asked if she wanted the family's house on Hillcrest in Ypsilanti. Renee and Don said yes, grateful later for the buyer who renovated the Kimberley place. "They saved this house, and they made it a beautiful place," says Renee. "I hope the new owners know the house turned one hundred years old this year."

The Wild Women spirit migrated with her. Observer calendar editor Jen Taylor attended the Women Writers party in 2022 and came away dazzled. "Renee brilliantly came up with and made a lot of the games," she says. "The amount of work she puts into it is so impressive. … The decor takes so much work, and the making of the games."

Jen later joined the Disney Villainesses party, where she recalls, "People went all out on those costumes." Her favorite? Renee's mother, Connie, costumed as Cruella de Vil. Each guest received a handheld mirror.

In 2023, Renee met SARK at a writers' conference in Santa Fe. She bought the twenty-fifth anniversary edition of *Succulent Wild Woman* and noticed the message's shift. "You think of succulents. You can still live juicy, purposeful, delicious lives, but you don't feel a young vibrancy."

The moment pushed her to start an as-yet-unnamed memoir/how-to Wild Women party book and a women's writing group. She encourages party planners to honor "friends and their unique sisterhood."

Her pirate-themed 2025 party was her last. "There have been twenty-five parties, and that's plenty," she says.

These days, she's imagining a gentler direction, should anyone decide to take over party planning. "I don't think they'll be wild because we're way more mild than wild these days. Nobody wants to drive at night anymore.

"Maybe we could call them Wise Women parties," she muses. "They'll be shorter, and during the day, and there'll be a lot less fuss."

—Anita LeBlanc

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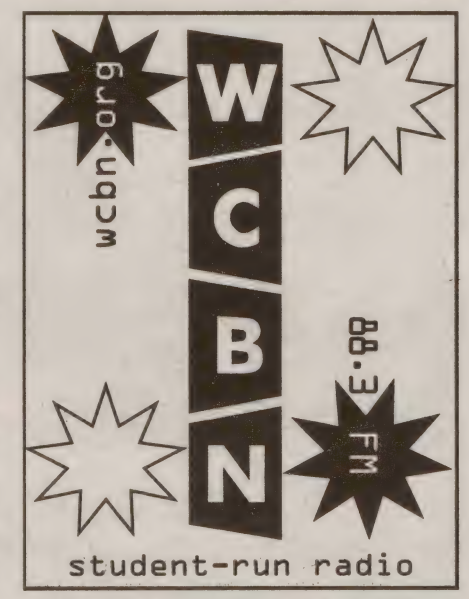

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by Della DiPietro

RODE TO HELL

Who's at **fault** when the **sports** events **go wrong?**

COURTESY OF KAI CORTRIGHT

Tomoko Murakami on a bicycle tour in Europe. After retiring, she traversed Finland on cross-country skis and completed an ultramarathon in Colorado.

It was a bright autumn morning for the more than 100,000 people driving to the Big House for the University of Michigan's October 4 homecoming game against Wisconsin. Some sixteen miles west, about 250 others gathered at Chelsea Community Fairgrounds for a very different athletic contest: the annual Rode To Hell gravel bike race. Organized by Tris4Health, it featured three routes (twenty-four, forty-one, and seventy-one miles), primarily on gravel roads, with most of the mileage stretching across five townships in western Washtenaw County.

The weather was perfect, but trouble awaited at mile forty-three.

Among the participants was Marvin Boluyt, who'd encouraged his longtime friend Tomoko Murakami to join him. She had returned home to Scio Township just five days earlier after completing a two-week bike trip and mini-triathlon in Europe. Since retiring in October 2023 after nearly thirty years as an anesthesiologist, mostly at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Ann Arbor, she upped her fitness with pursuits such as cross-country skiing across Finland and a 100-mile, six-day ultramarathon in Colorado.

After cycling a mile and a half to Chelsea city limits, participants had no law-enforcement support for traffic enforcement. They had to navigate through a number of gravel road intersections at major thoroughfares with posted speeds of forty to fifty-five miles per hour, and without stop lights, four-way stops, or, according to Boluyt, any monitors or law-enforcement officers.

The two friends approached North Territorial Rd. in Dexter Township about three hours into the race. The route called for a quarter-mile stretch along the heavily traveled road with a posted speed of fifty miles per hour and little shoulder. Murakami led the way, searching for the route sign marking the spot for a left-hand turn across two busy lanes of traffic onto Toma Rd.

"I was a few minutes behind her, so I didn't see what happened," Boluyt says. "When I came upon the accident, she was lying on the side of the road in a fetal position. Her face was really quiet. I thought she might be dead. Her left leg was bent like a zigzag and there was a pool of blood."

Murakami had been hit by a pickup truck. A route sign, signaling the turn, lay on the ground next to the accident scene. It may or may not have been upright when Murakami and the pickup truck approached.

Boluyt watched as his friend was loaded into an ambulance and rushed to University of Michigan Hospital's Emergency Critical Care Center.

There are hundreds of events held in Washtenaw County each year, and many are required to get a permit from the city, township, or village where participants gather. These special event permits give officials a chance to review the logistics of the event to ensure public health and safety. But when the activity extends across jurisdictional boundaries—as many athletic events do—the event permit doesn't.

There is also no government mandate for race organizers to inform other jurisdictions that the race passes through. In the case of Rode To Hell, not only was Dexter Township left in the dark, so were the other four Washtenaw County townships on the bike routes, according to the supervisors of Freedom, Lima, Lodi, and Lyndon townships.

Even if they had been notified, these townships could not have required the race organizer to apply for a special event permit. They could have approached the Washtenaw County Road Commission for a permit, but WCRC only offers permits for temporary road closures. If an event only *uses* the road, no permit is available.

Even without a permit, officials say advance notification could make events safer. "If notified," says Lodi Township Supervisor Jan Godek, "we would want to know the route, and contact our sergeant to advise how to assure safe passage through Lodi Township."

The resources each township devotes to traffic enforcement have varied widely since 2000, when the county commission discontinued countywide patrols. For example, Lima, Lyndon, and Freedom rely on the limited resources of Michigan State Police (MSP) Brighton Post—which, according to MSP special lieutenant Rene Gonzalez, "was not involved in any way in this event."

Lodi and Dexter townships, meanwhile, have contracts with the sheriff's office for road patrols. However, according to sheriff's office commander H. Eugene Rush, Tris4Health race organizers requested sheriff support only for two intersections in Lima Township, and none in Lodi or Dexter townships. Why only those two intersections is unclear.

As the Observer went to press, Washtenaw County Sheriff Alyshia Dyer was limited in what she could say about the collision and the driver of the pickup truck because the Traffic Division's accident investigation remained open. But she was able to confirm that the sheriff's department reviewed the routes in advance.

"We [typically] recommend coverage at most major intersections and areas of concern," she says. "This type of race is quite extensive, hard to cover it all … and incredibly dangerous."

One way to provide that coverage is to pay the cost for sheriff's deputies willing to take overtime shifts. But Dyer explains that the office cannot mandate overtime, and no deputies signed up for the Lima Township traffic duty.

"The challenge," she says, "is that there were so many resources taken up on Game Day."

> "Any distance along North Territorial is unsafe," asserts long-time bike safety advocate Steven Kronenberg. "I wouldn't walk by that road."

After the collision, Kronenberg spoke during public comment at a meeting of the Dexter Township Board of Trustees. "I do feel there are some measures we can take to try and prevent this sort of horrific accident in the future," he told them. Dexter Township Supervisor Lonnie Scott later sent Tris4Health a letter to "implore you to contact the appropriate authorities … to coordinate general and specific safety awareness for any future events that involve roads in Dexter Township."

Chelsea Police Chief Kevin Kazyak also sent a post-race email to Tris4Health race director John Mosey, which the Observer obtained via a FOIA request. He cited several incidents in which cyclists ignored the prescribed route, traffic laws, and officers' directions, which he said he believed was because the race was timed. (According to Boluyt, he and Murakami were not focused on winning the race—in fact, they were the last two riders on the seventy-one-mile route.)

"This poses a safety risk for not only your participants, but for the drivers on the road and for my officers," Kazyak wrote. "We have held other running and bike events in the city over the years and have not experienced these types of problems in the past." The chief added that "if you plan to hold this event within the city of Chelsea next year, the current race route will need to be changed."

The 2026 routes posted on the Rode To Hell website have indeed been changed, and now skirt the city of Chelsea altogether. (The new starting location is Revel Run, which has a Chelsea mailing address but is located in Lima Township.) The forty-three-, seventy-, and hundred-mile routes have cyclists traveling the same stretch of North Territorial, but heading the opposite direction. They will still have to cross two lanes of busy traffic a quarter-mile west of the collision location, onto Brand Rd.

As for the logistical issues stemming from Game Day, the U-M 2026 regular football season was still pending when the Rode To Hell website announced Sunday, October 4 as the date for its 2026 race.

"We wait for the Big 10 schedule to come out before we schedule the Ann Arbor Marathon," says Eva Solomon, the founder and owner of Ann Arbor–based Epic Races, which organized eleven running races and triathlons in 2025. She notes that off-duty law enforcement personnel are not generally available for other events during weekends when U-M has a home game.

Solomon adds that Epic's safety protocols include informing all jurisdictions involved in an event. "We also contact the police and fire. We check with the road commission and let residents know in advance with flyers and notification to homeowner associations, and we place signs on the route."

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RODE TO HELL

PHOTO COURTESY MARVIN BOLUYT

Officials from the sheriff's office note that there are things that motorists and cyclists can do in these situations to keep themselves and each other safe.

Rush reminds drivers that, "vehicles must provide three feet when passing a bicycle driving straight on the roadway and always be mindful of bicycle traffic."

"I always recommend bicyclists wear protective gear, and ensure to watch vehicle traffic, and follow all traffic safety laws," adds Dyer. "Some bicyclists have started getting orange flags secured on their equipment for travels which can help."

Forty-three miles into the race, Murakami was struck by a pickup truck while making a left-hand turn off of North Territorial. The road has a fifty-mile-per-hour posted speed limit and little shoulder.

Tris4Health is a brand of Michigan Endurance Holdings, LLC, based in Grand Rapids. Billing itself as "a leader in endurance events," Tris4Health's logo includes the trademarked phrase "Athletes first," and its website boasts "risk-free racing." Upon inspection, risk-free refers to its refund policy, not safety. The company sponsored twenty biking, running, triathlon, and youth events in 2025. On November 10, its Instagram site announced the rebranding of its cycling events under the name Boundless Race & Ride Company.

During a brief call, John Mosey, Tris4Health co-owner and race director, declined to comment on specific questions about the Rode To Hell race and his company's operations. In a follow-up statement, he writes, "Participant safety is our top priority. We are cooperating with the authorities as they review the circumstances of the incident. Out of respect for the athlete's privacy and because the review is ongoing, we are not able to share further details at this time. We remain committed to supporting the athlete involved, and to continuing our work to provide safe, well-organized events for all participants, spectators, and community members."

Murakami's younger daughter Kai Cortright says Tris4Health's support has been two texts from Mosey asking about her mother's condition.

Mosey declined to comment when asked by the Observer about the frequency of incidents at Tris4Health races.

"It would be useful to publish race incidents for specific events and make it available with the general liability waivers that participants have to sign," says Boluyt. "It would make signing that waiver more thoughtful."

At Epic Races, the number of serious accidents totals three in its seventeen years, with none involving vehicles, reports Solomon.

"As a team, we review what happened after an incident," she explains. "It always results in more participant education. I do something no one else does: hold a [safety-focused] Zoom call for athletes before each event, record it and put it on our website. We also have a mandatory safety meeting for the athletes fifteen minutes before the event. … We do what we need to do to keep the race safe."

At the time of publication, Murakami was making progress in her recovery. After nearly three weeks in the intensive care unit, she moved into intensive rehabilitation.

"There is hope, she gets better every day," said Cortright. "Mom loves a challenge and she's got a big challenge."

She was able to eat solid food, walk short distances with a walker under supervision, and engage in short- to medium-length conversations. She says she doesn't remember anything about the collision.

"It's disappointing that more wasn't done to make that intersection safe for the participants," reflects Cortright. "Incidents like this should never occur in an organized event. Cyclists should be able to trust that race conditions are secure and that their safety is a top priority." ■

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SECOND CHANCES

Recidivism, the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend, is a complex and persistent issue. But the Washtenaw County community is tackling it head on.

BY SARAH ROYALTY PINKELMAN

MARK BIALEK

Inspired by the peer-to-peer mentorship he received through the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, Billy Cole (left) teamed up with Bryan Foley to create Supreme Felons.

After forty-three years, eleven months, and twenty-three days, Billy Cole was released from prison. It was 2019 and he found himself scrambling, trying to find his footing. He took on factory work, delivery work, anything he could find to bring in money and avoid returning to prison.

But it was his work with the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) that helped him understand a major mental hurdle to his successful reentry to society: "collateral damages" to his identity from being in prison. After confronting those collateral damages with other returning citizens through WCSO's peer-to-peer program, he got to work in the community, where, he says, "my purpose, my target, was recidivism."

Billy Cole is now the executive director of Supreme Felons, Inc., a community mentorship and life skills program for young people who need support and for Washtenaw County returning citizens. "I understood that there's a deeper level than what the typical social worker and professional would know in terms of returning back to society with collateral damages," he says.

The same year Cole was released, funds from Washtenaw County's Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage, passed in 2017, became available. The millage was voted in at a two-to-one margin, despite its last-minute addition to the ballot. In 2024, voters renewed it with about 70 percent of the vote, ensuring funds until 2033.

About $15 to $18 million per year, and rising, is divided between the WCSO, Washtenaw County Community Mental Health (WCCMH), and independent police forces in cities and townships, funding efforts that improve public safety and mental wellness. Initiatives include interrupting cycles that lock people up for addictions and mental health struggles and offering evidence-based solutions and treatments instead. WCSO's Mental Health Criminal Justice Diversion Advisory Council notes that the recidivism rate for inmates with mental health and substance use disorders was 58 percent in 2017, almost double the rate for the general population.

Washtenaw County Board Commissioner Andy LaBarre helped author the millage. He says that while it grew from concerns over budget increases that weighed on townships and municipalities, it also grew from collaboration. LaBarre notes that WCCMH and the WCSO had been working together for several years "in tandem, trying to understand how their service populations overlapped."

The offices launched a data evaluation process, called sequential intercept mapping, especially designed for capturing criminal justice and mental health interactions.

"We did a mapping of the whole continuum of how people enter and leave the criminal justice system. That's from the first point of arrest all the way through the court system," explains WCCMH executive director Trish Cortes. It showed "where our strengths were and where we had areas of opportunity … kind of an inventory of what we currently have and what we need to be more effective in diverting and deflecting individuals out of the criminal justice system."

WCCMH and the WCSO each have a set of initiatives attached to the millage that improve public safety and mental health supports, like rethinking emergency responses to divert people away from jail and into mental health treatment instead, supplying supportive housing, and mapping pathways for youth away from juvenile detention and into support.

Cortes says that the Co-Response Unit (CRU) is an especially successful program, where master's level social workers are paired with a police officer in a very lightly marked patrol car for crisis responses. She adds that they've had "success stories that are really, really, really phenomenal with incredible outcomes."

The teams have gone into the community and forged relationships, supplying staples from granola bars to hygiene supplies to community resources before need-based frustrations lead to crime. In one instance, a team engaged "with an individual who was also experiencing homelessness and addiction and [they] developed a relationship with that individual" through repeated contact. They were eventually able to connect that person to a long-term addiction recovery program that matched their needs.

Reports from the Michigan Department of Corrections show a slight downtrend in recidivism rates in Washtenaw County: 29.3 percent of parolees released in 2021 returned to prison within three years, down from 33.6 percent the year before. But connecting recidivism rates with specific initiatives is historically difficult—factors are layered and complicated. And when the incarcerated population in Washtenaw County is over 50 percent Black when only 13 percent of the overall population is Black, there's systemic racism at play in every pipeline.

Back to Billy Cole. After he participated in reentry programming with the WCSO, he sought out even more formal ways he could help others. He says that "within our community, a small number of guys—and Bryan Foley was one of them—were actually doing work to prevent recidivism." So Cole and Foley combined forces and followed the work of other community leaders like Harry Hampton and Bernard Cook, who "set the platform for us," and incorporated Supreme Felons in 2020, a year after his release.

Bryan Foley is at the center of the Ypsilanti community. A local electrician with his own company, he's on the board of the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority and runs his own community-centered podcast called *Ear to the Ground 197*, which hosts guests like Debbie Dingell. He also spent time in prison.

Foley and Cole ran Supreme Felons from 2020 to 2022 with the support of individual donations, a couple of grants from Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, and a small grant from Community Mental Health of Southeast Michigan to help prevent the spread of Covid—they distributed masks, test kits, and information.

"We weren't thinking about no funding. We were just thinking about doing," Cole says. "We were making contacts and collaborating with people because we needed their help to help our own community. Well, there were some officials that were paying attention to us."

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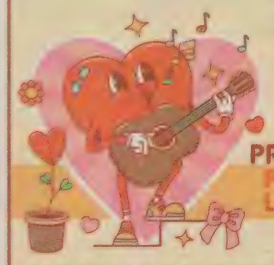

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COURTESY OF WISD

Sheriff Alyshia Dyer speaks at the county's first IGNITE graduation in October. Nine incarcerated individuals were awarded GEDs at the ceremony.

In 2022, Foley says, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners approached them and told them that they were "doing the work that fit the criteria of this [ARPA] grant," says Foley. The board wanted to award the Supreme Felons a three-year American Rescue Plan Act grant, which intended to help organizations develop "ambitious projects. They accepted.

With financial support, their outreach only grew, and they were able to secure an office space and about six part-time employees. Every day, Cole works to prevent others from taking the same road he did at eighteen, when he went to prison after robbing a convenience store and shooting and killing a young employee. It's always there, he says, the "harm that I caused. … It wasn't just me. I affected an entire community."

Since late 2022, Supreme Felons have delivered services to 465 returning citizens. Even against the county's recent low of 29.3 percent, Supreme Felons' recidivism rate stands apart. They report that only four people, or less than 1 percent of their clients, have returned to prison after three years.

Cole and Foley attribute this to their "special sauce," which is made from a community and "boots-on-the-ground" work. Cole tells their clients, "If you tell me you want to stay out of prison, we're going to help you. … I can fill in the gaps of what you need. If you're on medication and need attention for mental health, I can point you in that direction. If you are dealing with a substance of any type, we got these guys here that's experienced in substance abuse. … If you just want someone to talk to, here's my personal telephone number."

He and Foley walk the neighborhood and recruit businesses to hire returning citizens. When they know violence is in the air, they reach out, sometimes touching base nightly with someone by phone until the tension moves on. A few years ago, when gang-related gun violence was especially high, they brought gang leaders literally to their table and brokered a truce.

They even answered a call to patrol a high school basketball game after hearing rumors of gang violence. They showed up "suited and booted" and kept the game peaceful.

"Community violence interventions keep [young people] separated from law enforcement and the jail," says Foley. "What we mean by that is, if we can get to them before a potential act of violence … and have a conversation with them, right there," he and Cole can make a difference that could be lifesaving.

Cole calls their community advocacy for nonviolence their "umbrella"—a protection from harm.

Flint's Johnell Allen-Bey felt education could be essential to his and other's reentry process. During his time in prison, his bunkie was Aaron Suganuma—now a key force in Washtenaw County's reentry programs, and also a mentor to Billy Cole when he was in peer-to-peer. (To complete the circle even more, it so happens that Allen-Bey and Cole have known each other since they were teens.) In prison, Suganuma and Allen-Bey discussed ways they might help others after they were released; for Allen-Bey, it came down to education.

He worked for years after his release to set up education programs for those in prison. Allen-Bey eventually joined forces with Genesee County Sheriff Christopher Swanson to start IGNITE in 2020, a program that's just been adopted by Washtenaw County as well as by 3,084 sheriff's offices through the country, from Texas to Minnesota.

The program provides incarcerated individuals with education, job certification, and post-incarceration opportunities and assistance, what Billy Cole calls "the light of opportunity." According to a Harvard study, IGNITE is remarkably successful, reducing one-year recidivism rates by 23 percent.

A few years after Allen-Bey and Genesee County Sheriff Christopher Swanson implemented IGNITE, they met with then–Washtenaw County Sheriff Jerry Clayton to talk about implementing IGNITE. Now, with Sheriff Alyshia Dyer on board, the work continues. The county held its first IGNITE graduation in October, delivering GEDs to nine incarcerated individuals.

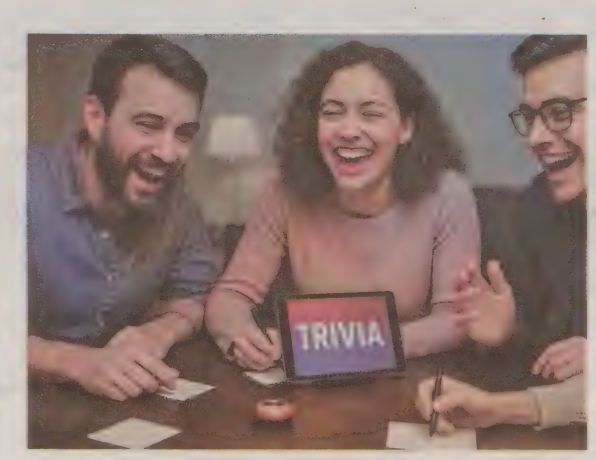
Dyer says that IGNITE has improved the environment within the county jail and provides inmates with "real career pathways so they can … have a better life." She also notes that reducing recidivism creates a safer community for everyone.

"Making sure people have pathways to success isn't just improving public safety," she adds. "It's improving the humanity, it's improving people's quality of life, their children, their families. ... It has a cascading positive impact on the overall community, and our mission to build a safer, more just, and compassionate community is right in line with that."

Programs like IGNITE and millage-based initiatives continue to grow through county funding. Meanwhile, Supreme Felons have passed the three-mark of their ARPA grant and are searching for new funding. But they continue to do the work. They are too aware of the need.

"'Cause when you hungry, I've been that hungry, so I understand it," says Foley. "So I'm empathetic to the hunger."

Cole adds, "You know we're going to hold you up." ■



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The Zingerman's Times

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Enjoy Easier Meals Thanks to These Soup-er Stores

reports of beLLies warming aLL around town

Always up for stirring the pot, the intrepid *Times* shopping sleuths have uncovered a few favorite spots for a very specific form of retail therapy—soup.

Cornman Farms – A preorder-only spot in Dexter, where Chef Kieron Hales offers his favorite foods from his upbringing in England and his eclectic culinary experiences abroad. All meant to be enjoyed at the guests' homes, current offerings include a selection of soups, like cream of mushroom, crookneck squash, thyme tomato, and curried leek, apple, and fennel.

Visit shop.zingermanscornmanfarms.com.

Zingerman's Delicatessen – The Deli might be best known for their sandwiches, but the Times crew discovered a stellar selection of soups, too, like creamy tomato, matzo ball, and mushroom beef barley, all available by the bowl or quart. Guests can also pick up a myriad of soup-making supplies, including housemade chicken stock, artisan pasta, a matzo ball soup kit (including one that is gluten-free), and much more.

Shop in person or visit shop.zingermansdeli.com.

Zingerman's Bakehouse – Regular guests know the Bakeshop on Plaza Drive has a rotating selection of hot soups available Monday through Friday—check the cooler for ready-to-heat soups. DIYers won't want to miss the Bakehouse's "Cup or Bowl?" cookbooklet. It features a collection of favorite soup-and-bread pairings that have graced the Bakeshop lunch menu for nearly 20 years. The cookbooklet includes 15 soup recipes, ranging from cold summer classics like heirloom gazpacho to American standards like creamy Tomato De-Vine.

Shop in person or visit zingermansbakehouse.com.

Zingerman's Mail Order – Shoppers can also send soup straight to their stoop, like a Moroccan-spiced tomato soup made from Michigan-grown heirloom tomatoes and a comforting blend of warming Moroccan spices like coriander, cumin, cinnamon, ginger, and cloves. Mail Order also offers a matzo ball soup kit and a selection of soup starters, from lemongrass paste to ramen noodles.

Visit zingermans.com.

Revel in Your Resolve to Eat More Whole Grains This Year

Local bakery fLoors fans with fLavorfuL, freshLy miLLed fLours

The *Times* flour fanatics have learned that a quiet revolution has been sprouting up at Zingerman's Bakehouse over the past few years. Thanks to their two stone mills, they're grinding many of their own grains and flours in-house. Now, many of the brownies, cookies, and breads are infused with freshly milled whole grain flours, and as a result, Bakehouse guests are experiencing a whole new stratosphere of flavor and nutrition. Shoppers are now able to more easily identify the Bakehouse's whole grain products, too, as they're now labeled with the Oldways Whole Grains Council's Whole Grain Stamps. Taste testers at the Times recommend getting started with breads like Sesame Semolina and Country Multigrain, and sweet treats like Glasgow's Graham Crackers and 24 Carrot Cake.

Get a taste of these great grains by visiting Zingerman's Bakehouse on Plaza Drive.

2026's Hottest Trend: Planning for Organizational Success

Leadership development workshop Series registration opens

The *Times* enrichment editorialist learned that ZingTrain—a Zingerman's company helping businesses be more effective, engaging, and enjoyable places for their customers and staff—has a Leadership Development Workshop Series launching on February 5. This expertly crafted collection of eight 2.5-hour virtual workshops explores different leadership topics, compiled over more than 40 years, that have made Zingerman's the organization it is today. Katy Alexander, ZingTrain Community Builder, says of the series:

> Across Zingerman's, we view everyone as a leader from Day 1. From our Mail Order holiday crew to Roadhouse bartenders to the Bakehouse marketer, all are encouraged to develop and practice leadership skills. We've curated our Leadership Development Workshop Series in this spirit—that everyone can benefit from leadership training.

Participants benefit from a bundled price (the series cost is $1,295—a savings of over $250!), new connections with a network of other up-and-coming leaders, and extra time with ZingTrain. After every workshop, participants can join a 60-minute follow-up session with their fellow cohort members and ZingTrain trainer and managing partner, Katie Frank, to further digest the material and create action plans tailored to take your organization to the next level.

Learn tools for great leadership at zingtrain.com.

Winter Revelers Thaw Out with Craft Cocoa

a deLicious way to make every day a snow day

The *Times* chocolate columnists got the scoop on the story behind Zingerman's Next Door Café's hot cocoa mix. Zingerman's cocoa connoisseurs spent months formulating, blending, and testing Next Door Café's house blend of hot cocoa mix. Reina Telin, manager of the Next Door Café, shares:

> We ordered just about every cocoa we could find—everything from the biggest to the smallest chocolatier companies—and tried them all. The range of flavor profiles was huge. We found that we liked something in between an earthy, bold chocolate flavor and a little bit of fruitiness.

The result is a mix made with Guittard cocoa powder that's deep in flavor without being overwhelmingly rich—great for everyone in the family, we're told, especially kids in après-sled mode.

Order your drink at the Next Door Café, and shop for tins at shop.zingermansdeli.com, Plum Market, and zingermans.com.

attention food Lovers!

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If you're looking for some long reads, check out our blog at **zingermanscommunity.com**

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Marketplace Changes

by Dave Algase

Cluck Wild, Six Days a Week

Chick-fil-A makes its Ann Arbor debut.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Ross School of Business alumna Joyce Mueller is returning to her roots. Through high school and college, she worked at a Chick-fil-A in Marietta, Georgia. Now she's the owner-operator of the chain's first location in Ann Arbor.

Since her last job as a marketing executive a year ago, Joyce Mueller has been working as a part-time team member at **Chick-fil-A** in Taylor, she says, "because anything I ask my team to do—clean the bathrooms, fry the chicken, clean up, whatever—I want to say I've absolutely done that. I know how to do it. I'm not above doing it. I'm good with anything. I like to get my hands dirty."

The Ross School of Business alumna started the process of becoming an owner-operator for the first Ann Arbor franchise of the Georgia-based fast food chain in 2017. It's now open on the rebuilt Washtenaw Ave. site of the Denny's that closed in 2022.

A fourth-generation U-M grad originally from Grosse Ile, Mueller moved to the Atlanta area as a teen to follow her father's career at Ford. Her first job, at a new Chick-fil-A in Marietta, lasted through high school and college and provided scholarship money.

"I got those opportunities as a fifteen-year-old working in fast food to learn accounting, to learn inventory management, to order the truck, to count down the drawers, to become a crew leader and lead people," she recalls.

Returning to Michigan for her MBA program, she met her eventual husband and settled locally. Along with two college-age daughters, they live in Pittsfield Township.

"I'm here for the long haul," she says. "This is my only job. This is my career, and I'm really passionate about it, passionate about the growth and the opportunities, and passionate about building that welcoming environment."

She lists three skill sets as key to her new role: accounting, marketing, and leadership. "One of the things I really loved about the Ross School of Business is they focused on 'Who are you as a leader?'" she says. For her staff of about eighty (including many high schoolers like she was), she's starting with a relatively flat organizational structure, aiming to promote from within and align bonus incentives behind the core concerns of "great food, great customer service."

The family-owned company started in 1967 and now boasts over 3,000 locations. Its signature fried chicken sandwich and waffle potato fries are mainstays, but the menu spans several categories and dietary preferences. "The Michigan market loves our mac and cheese," Mueller says. "So, lots of good stick-to-your-ribs kind of food, but also healthy food." Examples of the latter include salads, a berry granola parfait with organic yogurt, chicken tortilla soup with beans and vegetables, and a Southwest veggie flaxseed wrap.

The only freestanding Michigan Chick-fil-A without a drive-thru, it has eighteen spots labelled for curbside pickup, "so we're telling customers, stay in your car, stay warm, do a conference call, do your email. We'll bring it to you as soon as it's ready," Mueller says. "If a car comes in and checks in on the mobile app, we can see basically where they are in the parking lot and just run it right out to them."

She describes the workflow as "a hybrid model" of made-to-order and at-the-ready, depending on the item and its ordering volume. In addition to an initial $25,000 donation to Food Gatherers, they're participating in a program that redirects surplus food to the needy. For employees, scholarship opportunities range from $1,000 to a possible $25,000.

Their corporate purpose starts with glorifying God, and they're famously never open on Sundays. "Faith-forward is just a way to do business well," Mueller says. "Caring is a big part of it, but also just operating with integrity. So the people I hire, I expect that of them, but I tell them, I'm going to treat you fairly. We're going to have a lot of open dialogue. This is going to be a good, psychologically safe place to work."

Past charitable endeavors prompted criticism from LGBTQ+ advocates for funding causes seen as hostile to their rights. The company announced in 2012 it would "leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena."

Mueller has heard the skepticism and has a relentlessly positive response at the ready.

"Chick-fil-A is a learning organization," she says. "We're all better together. It's embracing that patchwork of everybody from different lifestyles, different ethnicities, different religions and all of those things—that's certainly my passion. That's why I've lived in Ann Arbor for twenty-five years. All of the diversity, I think, is part of what makes Ann Arbor great. So yeah, everyone is welcome at our community table. Everyone's welcome in our team."

Chick-fil-A, 3310 Washtenaw Ave. (734) 998–1001. Mon.–Thurs. 6:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 6:30 a.m.–11 p.m. Closed Sun. chick-fil-a.com/locations/mi/ann-arbor-washtenaw-mi

Papa's Coming Home

Papa Johns re-debuts on Eisenhower.

It's been more than six years since **Papa Johns** closed its last Ann Arbor store. It ranks fourth among pizza chains in U.S. locations, but stores on W. Stadium, E. Huron St., and Plymouth Rd. are all long gone.

Now the chain is back with a southside shop in the Colonnade, one of over 275 franchises owned by Canfield, Ohio–based Bajco Group, including the nearest store, in Ypsilanti Township's Fountain Square Shopping Center.

"Covid boosted all the pizza sales up, so we definitely missed out, but we're excited to be back," says LeeAnn Hyndman, Bajco's director of operations for Michigan.

She's been with the company for about twenty years, enough time to bear witness to some troubled times and a strategic pivot. She says founder and namesake John Schnatter had a remarkable story—he grew the company from an oven in the back of his father's southern Indiana tavern into a global powerhouse—but the focus on a single public face, as with Jared of Subway infamy, proved problematic.

Schnatter was forced to step down as CEO and board chair in 2018 in the wake of controversial and racially insensitive comments. A *Forbes* exposé also detailed a toxic "bro" culture among company executives at the time. Since then, the company has dropped the apostrophe from its name and made a concerted push to emphasize team and community (sponsoring school and organization fundraisers, for example) over personality, Hyndman says. The first corporate values now listed on their website are diversity, equity, inclusion, and teamwork.

Hyndman expects the takeout and delivery store's hours to extend to 2 a.m. once staffing is geared up. She advises customers to order using their online app for the best deals and rewards.

Papa Johns, 877 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. (734) 249–5484. Daily 10 a.m.–11 p.m. papajohns.com

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Marketplace Changes

Briefly Noted

Luxury car dealership **Mercedes-Benz of Ann Arbor** has completed its short-distance move from Auto Mall Dr. to a newly redeveloped site on Jackson Rd. in Scio Township.

It's the first of several entrants for a twenty-one-acre project by Oregon-based Lithia Motors, which gained township approval after promoting its all-electric buildings with net-zero carbon footprint. BMW of Ann Arbor has announced a similar move; its Auto Mall Dr. location is listed for sale or lease. Jaguar/Land Rover, whose nearest dealership is in Novi, has also been identified as a possibility for the planned unit development, which includes an electric vehicle charging park and a mixed-use section as yet unspecified.

"Whatever it is, there's sentiment, there's meaning" in the jewelry people choose for themselves or others, says J&S Jewelry owner Mohammad Siryani. "We're in the business of bringing people happiness."

Messages to the Mercedes-Benz of Ann Arbor general manager received no response.

Mercedes-Benz of Ann Arbor, 4500 Jackson Rd. (734) 412–6509. Mon.–Wed. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 9 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Closed Sun. mercedes-ofannarbor.com

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The resurgence of Briarwood Mall continues. With a mixed-use redevelopment at its east end taking shape for a 2026 debut, once-vacant storefronts are rapidly filling throughout the fifty-two-year-old indoor shopping center.

In the open (doorless) corner spot near anchor JCPenney, **J&S Jewelers** offers gold, silver, diamonds, and other gemstones in all their fine forms—rings, earrings, chains, bracelets, body jewelry, and more. It's a capital-intensive enterprise, but Mohammad Siryani, thirty-three, was "born into this."

The MSU grad's family owns several Fast Jewelers and Jordan Jewelers locations throughout Michigan, but this the first store of his own. He's the "S" in the name; the "J" refers to his cousin, JJ Jonudi, who handles most of the day-to-day operations. Siryani is in the process of moving from Okemos to Ann Arbor, drawn to the city's "vibe" from "lots of friends that went to U of M," he says.

He believes he's filling a need at Briarwood for an "authentic, small business jewelry store" at "one of the few malls in Michigan that's up-and-coming." He would've preferred a long-term lease, but he's signed through 2026 and hopes to prove himself and become a fixture there.

"Whatever it is, there's sentiment, there's meaning" in the jewelry people choose for themselves or others, he says. "We're in the business of bringing people happiness."

Ear and nose piercing is available, as are jewelry repair and cleaning, ring sizing, and watch battery replacement. "No appointment needed," he says. "While you're in the mall doing other shopping, we'll have your stuff ready for you."

J&S Jewelers, Briarwood Mall. (734) 777–1906. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

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Polyester is pervasive at **Just Cozy,** where shoppers have been favoring sherpa blankets, long-sleeved shirts, and fleece-lined leggings, according to store manager Niccolle Williams.

Thermal socks, scarves, stocking caps, and mittens help round out the winter selection, but Williams says the Canadian-based company is not just seasonal. They stock regular leggings, capris, biker shorts, and short-sleeved tunic tops as well. Sizes range from kids 2 to adult XXXL.

All items are priced the same, which is normally $20, but storewide sales have knocked that down to $10 or $15 of late.

Williams, of Canton Township, previously worked at their Great Lakes Crossing outlet but jumped at the chance for a shorter commute and a promotion to lead the staff of four. "A very good deal," she says with a smile.

Just Cozy, Briarwood Mall center court. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. shopjustcozy.com

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At the walk-up corner counter near Von Maur, where Surf City Squeeze was a fixture for decades, **Sip Coffee Cafe** is now in business. Considering it's in one of the tiniest berths in Briarwood, the breadth of its menu is impressive.

In addition to the coffee bar and specialty drinks, it offers a slate of fourteen sandwiches (the priciest is the steak panini on sourdough for $8.02) and build-your-own options. Bakery items include sweet and savory croissants, "cinnabites," cake slices, and more.

Sip's other location is in Novi's Twelve Oaks Mall. Owner Rick Awdish was too busy at the grill to speak at length during an impromptu visit, and a promised phone call never materialized.

Sip Coffee Cafe, Briarwood Mall. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

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Hollister Co. is back in Briarwood after a twelve-year absence. The casual brand, owned by Abercrombie & Fitch, is aimed at teens and young adults in search of sweatpants, jeans, hoodies, and other comfortable fashion basics and accessories.

On a recent visit, the store's background music didn't interfere with an interview, not just because it was mellower than most modern pop, but because staffers weren't cleared to speak with the media, an assistant manager politely explained.

Succeeding Go! Calendars, Toys & Games, which has reverted to a pop-up presence in the main corridor, Hollister's sizable store sits in the mall's east side, which has more changes in the offing.

The spaces surrounding the former Sears entrance are walled off for now, but an employee of a nearby shop says construction workers have told her they're working on bigger digs for Apple. It's plausible as far as hearsay goes; *Bloomberg* reported in 2023 that the tech titan considered moving to the east-side Arbor Hills Shopping Center. An associate at Apple's centrally located current store says they've been told nothing, and mall representatives neither confirmed nor denied the Apple move in response to an email inquiry.

Hollister Co., Briarwood Mall. (734) 228–1355. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. hollisterco.com

Closings

The aptly named **Makeshift Gallery** will punctuate its three-year run with an open house party on December 28, its last day at 407 E. Liberty.

"It's a happy closing," says Jim Moran, one of the coordinators of the artist-run consignment gallery. "We've been on basically a day-to-day lease for three years, and the owners have worked with us really, really well to help keep us there, but now a restaurant is coming in that is paying actual rent, as opposed to what they allowed us to pay."

"We're excited," says Makeshift Gallery coordinator Jim Moran of their move to the Liberty Square building. "We can finally plan things!"

The incoming tenant, unannounced as of yet, was kind enough to let them stay through the holiday shopping season, he says.

Now bigger things are on the horizon—or actually, down the nearby alley that connects E. Liberty with E. Washington. Moran says they're part of a larger effort to activate the Liberty Square building into an arts and entertainment complex. The space was originally known as Tally Hall, built in 1986 as a food and retail mall, which soon failed, topped by a parking deck, which remains.

Makeshift will morph into the Alley Gallery, using both outdoor and increased indoor space to add to its current roster of about thirty main exhibitors and expand its programming. "We're excited," he says. "We can finally plan things!"

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Liquidation sales were well under way at **Value City Furniture** in mid-December, laying bare the vastness of the 70,000-square-foot showroom at 425 E. Eisenhower.

Staff weren't aware of a closing date, and no one was available to comment on the record. "We technically don't have a store manager right now," according to one harried sales associate. Discounts of 50 to 75 percent drew plenty of customer traffic.

Columbus-based parent company American Signature Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection November 22, planning to close thirty-three (including seven in Michigan) of its 120 stores while pursuing a purchaser for its remaining assets.

The Ann Arbor store had been in operation since 2021, succeeding the bankrupt Loves Furniture & Mattresses, which only months earlier had scooped up twenty-seven Art Van Furniture stores.

The now-defunct, Michigan-based Art Van opened the building in 1993. Founder Archie Van Elslander's trust sold it in 2017 for $13.6 million in a sale-leaseback arrangement that later became part of a larger lawsuit a bankruptcy trustee filed against his heirs. The case was settled in 2023 for $8 million.

Located within a TC1 zoning district (a transit corridor allowing for buildings up to 300 feet tall), the building on 4.5 acres is now listed for sale or lease.

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The last remaining **Baskin-Robbins** ice cream parlor in Washtenaw County has closed. Robert Park, owner of the West Stadium Shopping Center location since 2016, did not renew his franchise agreement.

Faced with an upcoming corporate requirement to undertake an expensive remodeling project, he had listed the business for sale but found no takers. While B-R's website still showed it as temporarily closed at press time, Park says he's unaware of any successor franchisee.

Founded in 1945, Baskin-Robbins was purchased in 2020 by Inspire Brands, which also includes Arby's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Dunkin', Jimmy John's, and Sonic Drive-In.

The shop at 1952 W. Stadium opened February 20, 1964, according to its grand opening ad in that day's *Ann Arbor News,* which introduced it as the company's 215th store. A single scoop of any of the thirty-one flavors went for six cents then.

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The campus area bar and restaurant **Blue Leprechaun** closed December 13, seventeen years after it replaced Touchdown Cafe at 1220 South University. Neither the proprietor, Perry Porikos, nor the multiunit building's ownership could immediately be reached for comment. Porikos also owns the ninety-year-old Brown Jug down the block, and all indications are it's staying put, even as high-rise construction will soon begin between the two establishments at the site of Galleria Mall.

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email marketplace@aaobserver.com.

Music at Nightspots

by Michael Bright and John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club. Notable events are highlighted in pink.*

The Ark

316 S. Main (734) 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m. Mon.–Sat. & 7:30 p.m. Sun., unless otherwise noted. Tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (734–763–TKTS) & theark.org, and at the door ($4 discount). **Jan. 3: The Yellow Room Gang.** In-the-round performances by this group of 8 award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Members are **David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba, David Tamulevich,** & his former duo partner in Mustard's Retreat, **Michael Hough.** 3 p.m. $29. **Jan. 4: Mr. B.** Ann Arbor's Mark "Mr. B" Braun has established an international reputation as one of the most exciting interpreters of traditional boogie-woogie and blues piano. He has mastered the classics from Meade Lux Lewis and Jimmy Yancey to Brother Montgomery and Professor Longhair, and he has added several dynamic originals to the long tradition he works in. "Mr. B knows the complete legacy of Blues piano. Not many pianists in this style play with more conviction," writes *Downbeat.* Tonight he is joined by veteran local drummer Pete Siers to celebrate the release of a new CD. $29. **Jan. 6: Schmaltz.** Local klezmer-funk collective with a repertoire of originals and klezmer classics. Tonight they are joined by a lineup of guests TBA to celebrate the release of their debut album, *The Seltzer Man.* $29. **Jan. 7: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up (doors open 7:30 p.m.) to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, free). **Jan. 8: Gemini.** This popular local acoustic duo of twin brothers Laszlo and Sandor Slomovits are known for their upbeat originals about life's simple pleasures, along with covers of songs by Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Tom Paxton, and the Beatles. Tonight they celebrate their 76th birthdays and are joined by their Good Mischief Band, which includes San's daughter, fiddler Emily Slomovits. $29. **Jan. 9: Duke Tumatoe.** Veteran Chicago blues and R&B singer-guitarist best known for his old-fashioned growl and rambunctious sense of humor. A founding member of REO Speedwagon, and regular headliner at Rick's throughout the 80s and early 90s, Tumatoe has played alongside Muddy Waters, Bo Diddley, B.B. King, Willie Dixon, Buddy Guy, and other blues greats. He released a new album, *Have You Seen My Keys?,* in September 2025. $29. **Jan. 10: "Jill Jack's Birthday Bash."** Jack is a sultry-voiced Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors. "Her voice can soar like opera and smoke like the blues," writes one *Detroit Free Press* reviewer. Jack's band won a Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Americana Group in 2019, and her annual birthday shows at the Ark have amassed a strong following. $29. **Jan. 11: Ember & Ash.** The new side project of Alex Holycross, lead singer of the Oakland self-styled "thrash grass" country quartet The Native Howl, and Erin Zindle, the fiery fiddling frontwoman of the veteran local country-rock band The Ragbirds. Together they play an intense brand of outlaw Americana that blends Hollycross's edgy rasp and heavy metal powerchord guitar work with Zindle's airy vocals and graceful fiddle playing. $29. **Jan. 12: "Community High Jazz Ark-tic Blast."** Two shows featuring various high school jazz ensembles. 6 & 8 p.m. $5. **Jan. 13: Amythyst Kiah.** Blues-based grunge-tinged Southern Gothic folk-rock singer-songwriter from Tennessee whose influences range from Sister Rosetta Tharpe and Nina Simone to the Carolina Chocolate Drops and the Duhks. She sings in a distinctively powerful, yet tender voice, and expertly accompanies herself on banjo and guitar. Her 2024 CD *Still + Bright* moves her sound in a more indie rock direction, with guest appearances by S. G. Goodman and Billy Strings, among others. "Kiah digs very deep, expanding her musical space, opening up her songwriting process, displaying a greater vocal range and delivering a very personal message," writes *Americana UK.* "It's a remarkable and powerful album." $29. **Jan. 15: Denitia.** This Texas-born, Nashville-based country singer-songwriter is known for her soulful and poetic lyrics, honey-sweet voice, and diverse sound that incorporates elements of classic country, folk-rock, and 70s pop-rock. She's toured extensively with the Black Opry and was recently named an artist to watch by the *Nashville Scene.* "Denitia takes Americana and country vibes all the way to the brink of catchy popular music," writes *Americana Highways* in a review of her 2024 album, *Sunset Drive.* "She just might take off big time with this album. The songwriting hits her goal of creating universally relatable numbers right on target." $24. **Jan. 16: Djangophonique.** Vintage jazz in the style of gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt's 1930s Parisian swing by this veteran local ensemble led by guitar virtuoso Andrew Brown and vocalist Katie Smith. $29. **Jan. 18: G. Love & Special Sauce.** This eclectic band has been around since the early 1990s, when they came on the scene in Philadelphia with a loose, spontaneous mix of sounds that treated the hip-hop, R&B, and grunge conventions of the day with total creative freedom. Since then they've released numerous albums (plus several G. Love solo efforts), all with a different musical mix, but all with the same effortless sense of fun and way of combining old and new sounds. Tonight they play songs from their 2006 album, *Lemonade.* Opener: **Makua,** the stage name of Makua Rothman, a Hawaiian big-wave surfing champion whose sound incorporates elements of reggae, rock, rap, and soul with a strong Hawaiian vibe. $52. **Jan. 20: Open Stage.** See above. $3 (members & students, free). **Jan. 21: Fränder.** This popular Swedish ensemble plays a self-described brand of "Heavy Folk" that blends pastoral Nordic roots melodies with heavy rock rhythms reminiscent of Jethro Tull and Led Zeppelin. "Fränder's charged-up repertoire masterfully infuses impressively virtuosic acoustic instrumentation with spirited vocals and formidable rhythms," writes *Roots Music Report.* $29. **Jan. 22: Garnet Rogers.** Veteran Canadian folk singer-songwriter-guitarist who sings in a powerful, rich, and brassy baritone. His highly expressive original songs often feature lyrics that dwell on everyday struggles and uplifting small victories, which he accompanies with nimble fingerstyle guitar. $29.

JOE NAVAS

G. Love performs with his band Special Sauce at The Ark January 18.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. (734) 996–8555

This venerable club, founded in 1971, features live music by a variety of rock, pop, hip-hop, and other acts most Wed.–Sat. and occasional other nights, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). All-ages shows are 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. or midnight. Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Doors open an hour before showtime. Cover (age 20 & under, $5 extra), dancing. Advance tickets at blindpigmusic.com/calendar. **Jan. 2 & 3: "Winter Fuzzfest,"** With short sets by different area acts each night. A benefit for Food Gatherers. ***Jan. 2:*** The Ypsi psychedelic garage rock band **Velvet Snakes,** the veteran popular Ypsi Detroit-style rock 'n' roll band **Mazinga,** the local stoner rock band **Electric Huldra,** the Detroit psychedelic garage rock band **Good Man's Brother,** and an ensemble led by **Dr. Peter Larson,** a local singer–string musician whose instruments include the *nyatiti,* an 8-stringed lyre native to the Siaya region of western Kenya, where he studied under one of the last masters of the instrument, Mzee Oduor Nyagweno. $14. ***Jan. 3:*** The area punk trio **Human Skull,** the Detroit psychedelic art-rock trio **Sonic Smut,** the local doom metal/stoner rock band **King Under The Mountain,** and veteran local hip-hop rappers **Nickie P.** and **Duke Newcomb.** $14. **Jan. 7: Re-Rock America.** Detroit-area hip-hop rapper. Openers: the Novi punk-rock band **Permanently Pissed,** along with Detroit-area hip-hop rappers **Suave Ray, Trick Flair,** and **Whiteloaf.** $14. **Jan. 9: The Sweet Spot.** Young high-energy Ohio rock band led by fiery frontwoman Maddie Indré. Openers: the Monroe ska punk band **Wipeout,** the Illinois folk-rock singer-guitarist **Marble Teeth,** and **Petalwave,** a local indie alt-country-rock-flavored power-pop band. $14. **Jan. 10: "Space Bass 2: Return of the Wubz."** With sets by area DJs **Darrio, DJ Djinjo, Karla Chapa, Navigatr, Sam/Wyze,** and **Voodoo.** $23. **Jan. 16: Hize.** Morenci (MI) hip-hop rapper with a working-class point of view. Openers: fellow area hip-hop rappers **Philip & Barrs of Steel,** along with house DJ **Prophet Ecks.** $14. **Jan. 17: "K-Winterland."** *All ages.* K-pop dance party. $22. **Jan. 22: Grenadine.** U-M student pop-rock cover band. Openers: the young Detroit-area pop-punk trio **Mass Dispute,** the U-M student alt-rock band **Tell Me When,** the Detroit metal rapper **Fetti Fuego,** and the Michigan pop singer **Dutch Snyder.** $14. **Jan. 24: Stormy Chromer.** Two sets by this popular genre-shifting Ypsi-based jam-rock quartet. $25. **Jan. 28: Liam Kelley.** Detroit-area blues-inflected indie pop-rock singer-guitarist. Openers: the Detroit-area pop-punk band **Dead Buds,** the local soul-pop singer-songwriter **Bubbles Is the Problem,** and the Ypsi rock trio **Levona.** $14. **Jan. 30: Seahaven.** *All ages.* Veteran L.A. post-hardcore emo band led by the vocalist Kyle Soto. Tonight they play their 2011 debut album, *Winter Forever,* in full. Openers: **Flycatcher,** a New Jersey alt-rock band, and **Creeks,** the stage name of Philadelphia indie pop-rock singer-songwriter Jon Simmons. $30. **Jan. 31: Moravian.** Young Macomb County indie rock quintet. Openers: **Cousin Simple,** a Columbus (OH) indie alt-rock band, and **Ethan Marc Band,** a Detroit-area indie rock quintet led by vocalist Marc. $20.

The Blue LLama

314 S. Main (734) 372–3200

This jazz club/restaurant features live music sets by regional and nationally touring jazz acts 7 & 8:30 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), 7 & 9 p.m. (Fri.), 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. (Sat.), 6 & 8 p.m. (Sun.), and late shows 10:15–11:15 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.). Except as noted, $25 cover per set, late night shows, $15. Dinner shows include a 3-course dinner. Advance tickets available at bluellamaclub.com. No dancing except for Latin jazz shows and as otherwise noted. **Jan. 1–6:** *Closed.* **Jan. 7: Arnold/Jassi/Kramer: World Transcendence.** Local world music–inflected jazz ensemble of drummer Jesse Kramer, guitarist John Arnold, and bassist & vocalist Pathe Jassi. **Jan. 8: Signal Quartet.** Original postbop compositions featuring far-fetching improvisations by this young Detroit quartet. With trumpeter & flugelhornist Ben Wolkins, guitarist Ian Blunden, bassist Eric Nachtrab, and drummer Sam Perlmutter. **Jan. 9 & 10: Don Was & the Pan-Detroit Ensemble.** Nine-piece Detroit-based jazz-funk ensemble led by bassist Was, a legendary Grammy Award–winning producer and onetime president of Blue Note Records. His all-star band plays a mix of funky originals and interpretations of songs by Detroit jazz greats, including Yusef Lateef, Olu Dara, and Henry Threadgill. Describing their music, Was says, "there's a unique sound and feel to Detroit that permeates the music in a way that resonates all over the globe. There is a rawness, a lack of pretension and an unmistakable, underlying groove that reflects the people and culture of the city." $65. **Jan. 11: The Triumvirate.** Young local jazz trio that plays a mix of originals and bebop standards.

Jan. 14: Alain Sullivan's SoulHeart Collective. Funk and R&B-inflected jazz ensemble led by local saxophonist Sullivan, a U-M medical student. **Jan. 15: Jonathan Barahal Taylor Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by Hamtramck composer-drummer Taylor. **Jan. 16: WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series.** With an ensemble led by **Rick Roe,** a pianist whose repertoire includes Disney songs, *Star Wars* themes, TV themes, classical pieces, and Thelonious Monk classics, along with wildly inventive originals. 5 p.m. Free. **Jan. 16: Shahida Nurullah & Good Company.** Quartet led by Nurullah, a big-voiced Detroit jazz singer who specializes in blues, ballads, and pop standards. 7 & 8:30 p.m. **Jan. 17: Sean Dobbins Organ Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran local drummer Dobbins. **Jan. 18: Sarah D'Angelo & Cliff Monear.** Quiet & sultry jazz by this duo of veteran Paul Keller Orchestra vocalist-clarinetist D'Angelo and local pianist Monear. **Jan. 21: Tumbao Bravo.** Veteran local Afro-Cuban jazz band led by multi-instrumental reeds player Paul VornHagen. **Jan. 22: Max Bowen Special Quintet.** Jazz ensemble led by local guitarist Bowen, a U-M jazz studies grad. **Jan. 23: Ona.** All-female Detroit jazz ensemble of drummer Gayelynn McKinney, bassist Laura-Simone Martin, and Redwood, the stage name of jazz singer & keyboardist Sequoia Snyder. **Jan. 24: Nick Collins Sextet.** Local jazz ensemble led by drummer Collins. **Jan. 25: Hamilton de Holanda.** An acclaimed Brazilian composer and 10-string mandolin virtuoso whose sound blends contemporary world jazz with Choro, a vibrant Brazilian instrumental genre that incorporates European music with Afro-Brazilian rhythms, and is known for its fast tempos, complex melodies, and virtuosic improvisation. "The music is sometimes linear, and, at other times, swerving and twisting—harmony around melody like a double helix," writes *LatinJazzNet* in a review of his brand-new album, *Brasilianos 2*. "There is single, double, triangular and quadrangular counterpoint that enriches melodies, harmonies and rhythm to such an extent that song well nigh explodes with emotional depth." Dinner show: 7 p.m. $95. **Jan. 28: Elvin Sharp Quartet.** Young jazz ensemble, led by tenor saxophonist Sharp, that plays funky original compositions along with classics from the hard-bop and post-bop catalog. **Jan. 29: Aya Sekine Trio.** Experimental jazz improvisations by this ensemble led by veteran Japanese vocalist-keyboardist Sekine. **Jan. 30: "Swing Happy Hour."** With the **Kerrytown Stompers,** a local ensemble led by drummer Pete Siers that performs a range of vintage jazz styles, from struts, stomps, cakewalks, and rags to pop tunes, marches, and classical favorites. 5–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 30: Dwight Adams Quartet.** Detroit jazz ensemble led by trumpeter Adams, a WSU jazz professor who spent 2 decades as a member of Stevie Wonder's band. 7 & 8:30 p.m. **Jan. 31: Russ Macklem Detroit Quintet.** Edgy contemporary jazz that harkens back to 60s hard bop by this Windsor & Detroit ensemble led by acclaimed Canadian composer-trumpeter Macklem.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main (734) 665–2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 6–9 p.m. or later. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session.

Crazy Wisdom Bookstore

114 S. Main (734) 665–9468

This local bookstore hosts monthly live music in its Celestial Lounge, 7:30–9:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. Jan schedule TBA.

The Earle

121 W. Washington (734) 994–0211

Restaurant with live jazz Tues.–Thurs. 7–9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 7–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.–Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo jazz guitarist. Solo jazz pianists TBA occasionally substitute. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring drummer Robert Warren and a rotating roster of bassists and pianists.

El Limōn

2709 Plymouth Rd. (734) 780–7088

This Mexican-Mediterranean fusion restaurant in the Plymouth Mall Plaza features live music Mon. & Thurs. 6–8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 5:** TBA. **Jan. 8: Street Fiction.** A set of jazz music by this local rock band led by guitarists Dan Denison and Austin Netherton. **Jan. 12: Cliff Grupke & the Dusty Dragons.** Local classic rock band. **Jan. 15: Turner Luce.** Local Americana and soft rock trio. **Jan. 19: Chief O'Neill's Favorites.** Acoustic trio that plays Irish fiddle tunes. **Jan. 22: Focus Jazz.** Jazz favorites by the duo of pianist Jeff Fessler and saxophonist Jeff Kopmanis. **Jan. 22: Charles Harnes.** Local singer-guitarist who plays Townes Van Zandt and Dylan covers, along with some originals. **Jan. 29: Wilson Brenner Co.** Blues & jazz by this local guitar & keyboard duo.

The Habitat Lounge

3050 Jackson Rd. (734) 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features live jazz Fri. & Sat. 9–11 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Fri. & Sat.: Habitat Jazz Collective.** Jazz originals and standards by a local ensemble led by singer-bassist Rob Crozier.

The Last Word

301 W. Huron St. (734) 585–5691

This downtown cocktail bar features live music Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: The Pherotones.** A wide range of jazz and jazzed-up popular music, from the 1920s to the present, by this all-star local quintet. With trumpeter Ross Huff, pianist Giancarlo Aversa, bassist Brennan Andes, violinist Jordan Adema, and drummer Wes Fritzemeier.

LIVE

102 S. First St. (734) 623–1443

This lounge features live music Fri. during happy hour 6:30–9 p.m. and occasional evenings. Also, DJs Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Jan. 2: The Switchbacks.** Local hard-rocking country and blues quintet fronted by vocalist Janet Benson. **Jan. 9: The Invasion.** Detroit-area British Invasion cover quartet led by singer-guitarist David Roof. **Jan. 23: The Sidemen.** Versatile local all-star folk-rock and rock 'n' roll ensemble of vocalist Sophia Hanifi, guitarists Dave Keeney and Jim Latini, bassist John Sperendi, and others TBA. **Jan. 23: The Cellar Cats.** An eclectic mix of rock 'n' roll, Motown, blues, soul, and R&B—mostly from the 1960s & 70s—by this finely tuned ensemble of veteran local musicians that's fronted by vocalists Patty O'Connor, who plays keyboards and flute, and Myron Grant, who plays harmonica and guitar. **Jan. 30: Funk Opus.** Local R&B-funk septet fronted by Salmagundi vocalist Sheila Rhodes.

Mash Ann Arbor

211 E. Washington (734) 222–4095

This lounge in the basement of Slow's BBQ features live music Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, no cover. **Jan. 8: Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Jan. 16: T.E.A.M.** A mix of pop, rock, and punk covers, along with a few originals by this local jam band. **Jan. 17: JP & The Energy.** Contemporary pop-rock and pop-punk covers and originals by this Lansing trio. Remainder of Jan. schedule TBA.

Mash Ypsilanti

400 W. River St., Ypsi (734) 441–6200

This bar in the Thompson Bldg. in Depot Town features music Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.–midnight. Trivia (7–9 p.m.), and karaoke (9 p.m.–midnight) on Thurs. Dancing, no cover. **Jan. 2: Jay Frydenlund.** Chirp singer-guitarist who plays rock 'n' roll, blues, and folk covers and originals. **Jan. 9: T.E.A.M.** See Mash Ann Arbor. **Jan. 16: DJ Cuvee.** DJ with dance records. Remainder of Jan. schedule TBA.

Moonwinks Tavern

5151 Plymouth Rd. (734) 994–5151

This bar located next to the Moonwinks Café features live music, mostly folk-rock & Americana, most Wed. & Thurs. (7–9 p.m.), & Sat. (7:30–9:30 p.m.), along with occasional Tues. shows, karaoke every Fri. (6–8 p.m.), & a monthly open mic. No cover, except as noted; $10 suggested donation; no dancing. **Jan. 17: Reanna Morgan, John Dennie, & Steve Dougherty.** In-the-round performance by these three area folk-rock and Americana singer-songwriters. $10. **Jan. 31: Rochelle Clark.** Country- and folk-based Americana by this golden-voiced Chelsea singer-songwriter whose well-crafted story songs are known for their emotional directness and vulnerability. Remainder of Jan. schedule TBA.

North Star Lounge

301 N. Fifth Ave. nstarlounge.com

This music room & bar affiliated with the Detroit Street Filling Station next door features live music, mostly folk-rock & Americana, Wed., Fri., and Sat. 6:30–10 p.m. Also, Thurs. 7–10 p.m., LGBTQ Night features a rotating mix of DJs, trivia, karaoke, and bingo. $10–$20 cover (happy hour shows, free), no dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at nstarlounge.com/events and (if available) at the door. **Jan. 2: Gretchen Pleuss.** A local singer-songwriter who writes songs that are both emotive and smart. *Midwest Action* writer Dan Jarvis says "fans of Joni Mitchell, Nick Drake, and other folk luminaries will appreciate Gretchen's gorgeous arrangements and thought-provoking songwriting." 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 2: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** Local bluegrass quartet known for its beautiful vocal harmonies and instrumental prowess. Tonight they are joined by guitarist **Dave Keeney.** 7–10 p.m. $10. **Jan. 3: Seth Bernard.** A Lake City native known for his clever, funny, and candidly insightful folk-, rock-, and jazz-based songs about his life, Bernard founded Earthwork Music, a collective of musicians who focus their work on environmental advocacy, social justice, and community building. 6–7:15 p.m. $25. **Jan. 3: Jason Dennie.** Solo show by this veteran local bluegrass guitarist-mandolinist. 8:30–9:45 p.m. $15. **Jan. 7: Sage Advice.** Folk-rock covers and some originals by the husband-and-wife duo of Paul and Annemarie Dolan, members of the local rock cover band Four Roses. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 7: Poetry Open Mic.** All invited to bring a poem or monologue that they've written. Hosted by cat h. bradley & Forrest Hejkal. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m. 7–10 p.m. **Jan. 8: Janelle Haskell.** A former touring jazz saxophonist who recently reinvented herself as a folk-style singer-songwriter & guitarist. Haskell's tender and personal songs evoke the jazz-inspired vocal stylings of Joni Mitchell with the fingerpicking guitar of James Taylor. She recently released her debut CD, *Dedications & Postcards*. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 8: "Queer Open Mic."** All invited to bring a song, story, poetry, comedy, expression, magic, monologue, or other performance. Hosted by Coley Roberts and Thea Zuby. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. **Jan. 9: The Glen Leven Band.** Local quartet whose eclectic repertoire ranges from traditional Irish music to rockabilly, bluegrass, novelty songs, and roots-rock originals. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 9: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by banjoist Ryan Michaud. 7–10 p.m. $10. **Jan. 10: Gingersmack.** Local indie folk & Americana duo of Laura McAndrew and Gordon Kwiatkowski. 6:30–7:45 p.m. $15. **Jan. 10: Little Spoon River.** Jackson experimental postpunk blues trio. Free. 5:30–6:30 p.m. **Jan. 14: Will Kaye.** Young folk-rock singer-guitarist who writes stark yet effusive songs exploring longing, grief, and hope. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 14: "Funny Business."** An evening of lighthearted and humorous songs by local singer-songwriters **Kathy Wieland, Lauren Crane,** and **Pat Clinton.** 7–9:30 p.m. $15. **Jan. 15: Bill Edwards.** Local country-folk singer-songwriter Edwards, the 1989 winner of the Billboard Country Songwriting Contest whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. His collaboration with former Ann Arborite Whit Hill, "What'd I Do," was featured in the HBO series *True Blood.* **Jan. 16: Steve Pichan & Bobby Pennock.** Double bill. Pichan is a Novi singer-songwriter and Pennock is a Plymouth folk-rock singer-songwriter (see below). 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 16: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by dobro player **Tony Pace.** 7–10 p.m. $10. **Jan. 17: Peter Madcat Ruth & John Churchville.** An eclectic range of blues, American roots, jazz, and world music by this duo of tabla player Churchville and world-renowned veteran local harmonica wiz Ruth, who also sings and plays ukulele. 6–7:15 p.m. $20. **Jan. 17: Swing Nouvelle.** Detroit-area instrumental quartet that plays fresh interpretations of vintage swing from the 30s & 40s. 8:30–9:45 p.m. $15. **Jan. 21: Derek Jones.** Local singer-guitarist who covers songs from a variety of genres. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 23: So Say We All.** Local singer-songwriter duo who play covers, along with folk-rock originals infused with elements of psychedelic and glam-punk. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 23: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by dobro player Mark Lavengood. 7–10 p.m. $10. **Jan. 24: Bobby Pennock Trio.** Folk-rock ensemble led by Pennock, a Plymouth singer-songwriter whose style draws its influences from Paul Simon and Harry Chapin, with a helping of the Beatles thrown in for zest. 6–7:15 p.m. $15. **Jan. 24: Greg Austill.** *Sold Out.* **Jan. 28: Joseph Groele.** Indie folk originals & covers by this young local singer-guitarist. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 28: Open Mic.** All invited to bring a song, story, poetry, comedy, expression, magic, monologue,

or other performance. Hosted by Annie Bacon & Forrest Hejkal. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m. 7–10 p.m. $5. **Jan. 29: Rye Valley.** Eclectic Americana trio from Northeast Ohio led by singer-songwriter & guitarist Brett Auerbach. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 30: The Steve Taylor Three.** Acoustic trio led by Lake Orion Americana singer-songwriter Taylor. 5:30–6:30 p.m. Free. **Jan. 30: Pontiac Trail Blazers.** See above. Tonight they are joined by guitarist **Maddy Ringo.** 7–10 p.m. $10. **Jan. 31: Delta 88.** Classy veteran local country and rockabilly quartet led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Danny Kline. 6–7:15 p.m. $20.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty (734) 662–9291

This downtown corner bar features live music the first Sun. of each month, 7–9 p.m. Cover, no dancing. January schedule TBA.

Oz's Music Environment

1922 Packard (734) 662–8283

This storefront next to Oz's Music store features occasional live music. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Jan. 15: Drum Circle.** All invited to drum with renowned local percussionist **Maruga Booker**, who has played with the likes of George Clinton, Jerry Garcia, and Weather Report. 7 p.m. **Jan. 27: "Tree Town Uke Drop-In."** Musicians of all ability levels invited to play ukulele with members of Michigan's oldest ukulele club. 7–9 p.m.

The Ravens Club

207 S. Main (734) 214–0400

This downtown bar & grill features live jazz Sun. 7–10 p.m. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–midnight. $5 cover, no dancing. **Jan. 4: Jordan Rattner Trio.** Ensemble led by this young jazz composer guitarist from Milwaukee, a U-M music grad student. His guitar sound ranges from visceral to introspective, weaving lithe storylines and chromatic tapestries. **Jan. 11: Jesse Kramer Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by this local drummer. **Jan. 18: Dave Sharp Worlds Quartet.** Local composer-bassist Sharp leads this world music–based jazz ensemble that explores traditions from Turkey, Egypt, Ukraine, India, Bulgaria, Armenia, and Greece. With violinist Henrik Karapetyan, percussionist Mike List, and oud player Igor Houwat. **Jan. 25: Lisa Sung Quartet.** Jazz standards and originals by this ensemble led by Grand Rapids–based composer-pianist Sung.

Rumpus Room

506 N. Main, Chelsea (734) 616–6646

Music room inside Jet's Pizza features occasional live music. No cover, dancing. **Jan. 2: The Pherotones.** See The Last Word. 7–10:30 p.m. **Jan. 9: Big L & Code Blü.** A mix of soul, funk, R&B, and rock by this mid-Michigan quintet. 7–10:30 p.m. **Jan. 16: Orbitsuns.** Detroit rockabilly-flavored rock 'n' roll quartet. 7–10 p.m. **Jan. 16: The Deadly String Band.** Acoustic Grateful Dead cover band. 7–11 p.m. **Jan. 30: "Washtenaw County Funk & Disco."** With DJ Batz and Evan Oswald. 8–11:50 p.m.

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsi
(734) 482–5320

This popular downtown Ypsi tavern features live music Thurs. and occasional Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Open Mic.** All musicians invited. Hosted by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley.

Ypsi Alehouse

124 Pearl, ste. 100, Ypsi (734) 487–1555

This brewpub features live music Tues.–Sat. 7–9 p.m. & Sun. 2–4 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 2: Mary Ann Kirt.** Pop-folk and indie rock originals by this local singer-guitarist. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Jan. 2: Steve Somers & Friends.** Jazz & blues standards by an ensemble led by WCC jazz guitar instructor Somers. **Jan. 3: "Irish Session."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by **Irish-ish** (see below). 1–3 p.m. **Jan. 3: Feminine Energy.** Performances by local female singer-songwriters TBA. Hosted by Alaina Lemon and Sara Lambert. **Jan. 4: Rounding Third.** Local country-flavored folk-rock trio. **Jan. 8: Pittsfield Open Band**. Veteran local ensemble that plays old-time American and Irish dance tunes. **Jan. 9 & 10: "Ypsi Alehouse 10th Anniversary Celebration."** With music by favorite Alehouse performers. ***Jan. 9:*** **Indie Rock Royalty**, a local quartet that plays an eclectic mix of covers and originals, including some parodies, **Steve Somers & Friends** (see above), **David Freund,** an Ypsi singer-songwriter whose music is said to occupy the territory "somewhere between Paul Westerberg and Neil Young," and **Cattywampus,** an Ypsi experimental stoner rock trio. 4:30–10 p.m. ***Jan. 10:*** **Cliff & the Bass Player** a local classic rock 'n' roll and country cover duo led by singer-songwriter & guitarist Mulvihill, **Jim Cherewick,** a local singer-songwriter, **Dog Latin,** the stage name of Chris McGorey, a Canton singer-songwriter who plays adventurous folk-rock, **The Nitpickers,** an Ypsi ensemble led by singer-guitarist John Delcamp that plays an eclectic mix of classic country and folk, **Jacuzzi Beach,** an Ypsi trip-surf trio, **Human Skull,** a local punk-rock trio, and **ZZvava,** an Ypsi punk-rock quartet. 2–11;30 p.m. **Jan. 11: Steve Somers & Friends.** See above. **Jan. 13: Open Mic.** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Skinned Knees. **Jan. 14: Indie Rock Royalty.** See above. **Jan. 15: Focus: Jazz.** See El Limōn. **Jan. 16: Steff Kayser.** Folk songs and originals by this singer-guitarist who recently moved to Ypsi from Arizona. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Jan. 16: Wilson & Brenner Co.** See El Limōn. **Jan. 16: Prior Art.** A mix of originals and 60s–90s rock covers by this local quintet. 9:30–11:30 p.m. **Jan. 17. The Malty Taskers.** Old-time music from blues and country to hokum by this local quintet. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Jan. 18: "Ann Arbor/ Ypsi Acoustic Jammers."** All acoustic musicians invited for an open mic followed by an hour of jamming. Participants welcome to bring chord-and-lyric sheets of any well-known song for the jam. **Jan. 20: Open Mic.** See above. Hosted by singer-songwriter Phil McMillion. **Jan. 21: Deep Steam.** See Zal Gaz. **Jan. 22: McLaughlin's Alley.** Detroit Irish-tinged pop-rock quintet fronted by sibling singer-songwriters Tina and Maureen Paraventi. **Jan. 23: "Bark's Tales."** Folk-rock originals by local singer-songwriter Michael Snyder-Barker. **Jan. 23: Hard Candy.** Local rock band fronted by Spark vocalist Robin Grant. 9:30–11:30 p.m. **Jan. 24: Ron Shelton.** Americana country-rock and folk-rock covers by this local singer-guitarist. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Jan. 24: The Wildflowers.** Harmonically intricate original songs by this local acoustic Americana ensemble. **Jan. 24: The Second.** Acoustic duo of Lansing singer-guitarists whose music ranges from classic rock and country to alt-rock and contemporary hits. 9:30–11:30 p.m. **Jan. 25: Steve Somers & Friends.** See above. **Jan. 27: Open Mic.** See above. Hosted by Skinned Knees. **Jan. 28: Runnin' on Blues.** Southern rock, blues-rock, and blues by this Livonia trio. **Jan. 29: Dave Mackres.** Local singer-guitarist who plays a mix of acoustic folk, jazz, and old time ballads. **Jan. 30: Vicalely.** Ukulele covers of classic rock songs. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Jan. 30: Masculine Lethargy.** Performances by local male singer-songwriters TBA. **Jan. 31: Tustyn Yarger.** Local singer-guitarist who plays country and folk-rock covers. 4:30–6:30 p.m. **Jan. 31: Irish-ish.** A trio from the Malty Taskers that plays traditional Irish music and Irish pub songs. 7–9 p.m. **Jan. 31: Social District Jazz Trio.** Local jazz ensemble. 9:30–11:30 p.m.

Zal Gaz Grotto

2070 W. Stadium (734) 663–1202

This Masonic social and service club features live music Sun. 5–8 p.m., Mon. 7–11 p.m. (except July & Aug.), Tues. 5–7 p.m., Wed. 6–8 p.m., & Thurs.–Sat. 8–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. The venue features a full bar and a kitchen that serves California- & Colorado-inspired progressive Mexican food. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** Local 10-piece big band led by tubaist Chris Smith that specializes in the old-time big band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. **Every Mon.** (except Jan. 5)**: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 14-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest college or high school student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Easy Street Jazz Band.** Early jazz classics from Scott Joplin and Bessie Smith to Louis Armstrong and beyond by this veteran local septet led by trombonist Terry Kimura. **Jan. 2: Ralph McKee Blues Band.** Energetic, sophisticated blend of danceable soul, blues, and rock by this band led by Hoodang bassist McKee. **Jan. 8: Tim Berla & the Let's Pretend Band.** Jazz, country, and pop tunes by this local trio led by bassist Berla and fronted by vocalist Naya Loftus. **Jan. 9: Salmagundi.** Local horn-powered Motown/Memphis soul tribute band featuring vocalist Sheila Rhodes. **Jan. 10: Medicine Men.** This local dance quintet plays classic R&B and Motown. With vocalist Terry Samuels, guitarist Pete Bullard, keyboardist Andy Adamson, bassist Doug Katchorek, and drummer Mike Moneart. They are backed by the **Westside Girls,** the vocal duo of Cheryl McIntire and Carol Shaw. **Jan. 16: The Machine.** Pop, rock, and punk dance tunes by this local quartet featuring 2 former Bluescasters, guitarist Phil Ryski and bassist Doug Wolgat, along with drummer Rocky Di Iacovo and singer Aubrey Selaty. **Jan. 17: Outbound Packard.** A mix of rock and alt-country covers and originals by this local band led by guitarist Dave Buehrer (aka, Paledave). **Jan. 23: Jerry Mack & the Terraplanes.** Veteran local band led by singer-guitarist Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock, along with a few Motown songs. **Jan. 24: Deep Steam.** Ypsi quartet that plays jazz, rock, and soul covers, along with some originals. **Jan. 29: The Jaybees.** Local acoustic Americana quartet fronted by Switchbacks vocalist Janet Benson and singer-guitarist John Baltic. With bassist Patrick Little and drummer Dave Wak. **Jan. 30: Indie Rock Royalty.** An eclectic mix of covers and originals by this local quartet.

JEFF DUNN

Don Was & the Pan-Detroit Ensemble play the Blue LLama January 9 & 10.

Ziggy's

206 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsi
ziggysypsi.com

This downtown Ypsi coffeehouse-bar features live music Tues.–Sat. and occasional Sun. & Mon. 8–11 p.m. Cover (usually), dancing. **Jan. 6: "Open Jazz Jam."** All jazz musicians & singers invited. Hosted by drummer John Blanchette. **Jan. 7: Sean Perlmutter.** Jazz ensemble led by this local drummer. **Jan. 8: Piotr Michalowski & Jonathan Barahal Taylor.** Jazz duo of multi-instrumental reeds player Michalowski and drummer Taylor (see Blue LLama). **Jan. 9: Sacha.** A local pop-soul singer-songwriter. Openers: the Ypsi alt-rock quartet **Towner,** the local punk band **Latterfly,** and **Sock Jock,** the stage name of Taylor Brown, a Chicago-bred indie rock singer-songwriter who mischievously describes her music as "fueled by her unwavering belief that the world needs more songs about early 20s angst." **Jan. 10: "Stinking Good Comedy & Music."** With local stand-up comics **Tommy Cook, Bret Hayden, Patty Rooney,** and **Jacob Russell.** Musical acts TBA. **Jan. 13: Nick Ashton & Skeetor Shelton.** Jazz improvisations by this duo of drummer Ashton and saxophonist Shelton. **Jan. 14: "Gear Lords: A Night in Electronic Music."** Monthly gathering of live electronic production musicians, using beat machines, samplers, modular systems, synths and similar instruments. Tonight: dark ambient music by **Prompt Critical** (7 p.m.), Ypsi ambient artist **Tobias Haus** (7:45 p.m.), veteran Detroit hip-hop and drum & bass DJ **Jason Hogans** (8:30 p.m.), Detroit techno DJ **Silent Conversation** (9:30 p.m.), and local "synthwave" ambient artist **OMO** (10:30 p.m.). **Jan. 15: Brad Russell.** Jazz ensemble led by this Detroit-bred composer-bassist. **Jan. 16: Truman.** Ypsi pop-rock trio. Opener: **Jesse Morgan,** an Ypsi keyboardist. **Jan. 17: Izak.** Detroit artsy pop-rock Americana band. Openers: **Reckless Rhythms,** a high-energy Grand Rapids punk band, and **A Rueful Noise,** a Lansing-based goth-flavored indie trio. **Jan. 18: "The Sunday Spin."** A set by a house jazz band led by local trumpeter Ingrid Racine. Followed by an open mic for vocalists, instrumentalists (including electronic), MCs, & poets. **Jan. 20: Brad Billmaier.** Jazz ensemble led by this local drummer. **Jan. 21: Kaito Ian.** Local electronica musician. Openers: the Detroit-area DJs **Hazmat** and **Billebob,** and **OMO** (see above). **Jan. 22: Milan & The Ellipses.** Ypsi alt-folk band led by veteran singer-songwriter & guitarist Milan Seth. Openers: **Bubblegum Thieves,** a local indie pop-rock band, and **Birjy,** the stage name of Lea Detlefs, a local violinist-vocalist who creates live digital loops. **Jan. 23: "Iffy Benefit Show."** With the California- and New York–based psychedelic musician **Jib Kidder,** the Ypsi goth-flavored psychedelic rock trio **Modern Lady Fitness,** and the Detroit postpunk noise-pop band **Time Creep.** A benefit for the Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti. **Jan. 24: Lawncare.** Local indie rock 'n' roll quartet. Openers: TBA. **Jan. 28: Alex Anest.** Jazz ensemble led by this local guitarist who tonight celebrates the release of a new album. **Jan. 29: Knorberg.** Grand Rapids electronica duo. Openers: **Kind of Animal,** a Detroit indie rock band, and **Towner** (see above). **Jan. 30: Ness Lake.** Detroit lo-fi indie rock band. Openers: TBA. **Jan. 31: Burning Brain Band.** Psychedelic prog-rock band from Athens, OH. Openers: the Detroit-area prog-rock band **Sonic Underground Creative Collective,** the Detroit slow core band **Tired,** and the Detroit garage psychedelic rock band **Simulation.**

DJs & Dance Clubs

Club Above

215 N. Main (734) 686–4012

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features DJs spinning Latin music Mon. and Pride Night. Fri. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Cover.

Elks Lodge

220 Sunset (734) 761–7172

This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features a lineup of local house DJs Thurs. and occasional music other nights. Free.

Lo-Fi

220 S. Main (lower level)
(734) 369–6070

Casual bar beneath the Nightcap cocktail lounge features DJs with dance music Wed.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m., and occasional live music 8–9:40 p.m. Free.

Necto

516 E. Liberty (734) 994–5835

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 3 nights a week: Mon., Fri., & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover.

January Events

NIGHTSPOTS

40 Music this month
John Hinchey & Michael Bright

THEATER PREVIEW

48 Dimanche: A Theater of Few Words
Davi Napoleon

SENIORS

47 Events for seniors
Jennifer Taylor, Emily Pinsuwan, & Michael Bright

YVES KERSTIUS

***Dimanche* runs Jan. 7–11 at the Power Center (see preview page 48).**

GALLERIES

54 Exhibits this month
Jennifer Taylor

FILMS

56 Viewings this month
Jennifer Taylor, Emily Pinsuwan, & Michael Bright

KIDS CALENDAR

59 Events for kids 12 and under
Jennifer Taylor, Emily Pinsuwan, & Michael Bright

TIPS FOR READING

Published events reflect plans as of press day (Decemter 17), while the most up-to-date calendar is available at **annarborobserver.com.**

Our online calendar is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of events not listed in print.

★ **Denotes a free event**

Pink highlight denotes a notable event.

Yellow highlight denotes an event available on a2tix.

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their first occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

We want to know about your event!
Please send us your press release by the **12th day of the preceding month.**

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** (734) 769–3175

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County of interest to our readers.

Please submit listings as early as possible; items submitted after the 12th might not be included in print, but may be added to our online calendar.

Due to space limitations, many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar.

1 THURSDAY
(NEW YEAR'S DAY)

★**New Year's Day parkrun USA.** All invited to celebrate the new year by joining a timed but noncompetitive 5K run/walk. In the winter, course adjustments for the best footing may move the run to Lillie Park North or Hanselman Dr. Check facebook.com/lillieparkrun for the final location. *9 a.m., Lillie Park South, 4365 Platt Rd. Free, but first-timers are requested to arrive at 8:45 a.m. and preregister at parkrun.us/register. lillie@parkrun.com, parkrun.us/lillie.*

★**"New Year's Bird Walk at Gallup Park": Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance.** City ornithologist Juliet Berger & club member Matthew Spoor lead a bird walk to usher in the new year. *10 a.m.–noon, meet at the Gallup Park playground parking lot, 3175 Gallup Park Rd. Free. washtenawbna.org.*

New Year's Day Auction: Schmidt's Antiques. Auction of a wide variety of fine art, decorative art, vintage and estate jewelry, mid-century modern, and antique furniture. Preview begins at 9 a.m. today, and also runs various times Dec. 26–30 (check website). *11 a.m., Schmidt's, 5138 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsi. Preview and bidding also available online; go to schmidtsantiques.com. info@schmidtsantiques.com.*

"Day One": Elemental Ecstatic Dance. Dancers of all ages and abilities invited to begin the year with free-form dancing to peaceful recorded music, ending with frame drum (related to the tambourine) and didgeridoo (the Australian wind instrument) healing sound bath. Wear loose clothes, barefoot or stocking feet. *11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. A2 Yoga, 2030 Commerce Blvd. $15–$25 sliding scale (age 11 and under, free) cash or Venmo (@andjru) at the door only. andjru@yahoo.com, tinyurl.com/ecstatic-dance-a2-day1.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Dec. 4–Jan. 11 (different times).* Daniel Cooney directs this local professional theater company in Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Robert Lopez, and Jennifer Lee's 2018 stage musical, itself based on the 2013 animated Disney movie, a loose adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Snow Queen." It tells the story of Queen Elsa of Arendelle, whose self-seclusion in an ice palace prompts her younger sister Anna to attempt to find her, aided by a cast of comic characters. The musical features numbers like "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" and "Let It Go." *2 & 7 p.m. Encore, 7714 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Tickets $44–$65 (17 and under, $34) in advance at theencoretheatre.org & at the door. (734) 268–6200.*

Only in Ann Arbor™ Event of the Month

"Melodies & Morsels: France," swing-era Gypsy jazz from Third Coast Swing paired with Zingerman's French food and wine, Jan. 23 at the Kerrytown Concert House.

★**Bad Decisions Track Club.** *Every Thurs.* Runners of all abilities invited to join this eclectic group of runners ranging from people training for their first 5K to ultramarathoners. Sessions are typically interval-based track workouts, followed by socializing at a nearby brewery. *6 p.m. Ferry Field, State at Hoover. May meet elsewhere if the weather is bad. Free. See walline.wixsite.com/bdtc to sign up for email updates on each week's workout.*

★**Group Runs: Ann Arbor Running Company (AARC).** *Every Thurs., Sat., Mon., & Tues. (different AARC locations).* Runners of all abilities invited to join a 5K mapped route (Thurs. & Mon.), either a beginner or advanced group run (Sat.), or an interval-based training run (Tues.). *6 p.m. (Thurs.), AARC Colonnade, 901 W. Eisenhower; 7 a.m. (Sat.) & 6 p.m. (Tues.), AARC Downtown, 209 S. Ashley; and 6 p.m. (Mon.), Corner Brewery, 720 Norris, Ypsi. Free. annarborrunningcompany.com.*

2 FRIDAY

★**Lane 9 Women's Running Group.** *Every Fri.* All men & women invited to join this women-focused running group on a 3-mile loop run. All paces (including walking) welcome. *6:45 a.m., meet outside Argus Farm Stop, 1600 Packard. Free, preregistration required by emailing lane9project@gmail.com. lane9project.org.*

★**"Investigate Labs": U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Tues.–Sun., except Jan. 1.* All age 6 & up invited into the museum's Nature Lab and Micro Worlds Lab to use scientific tools and museum specimens to answer questions and solve problems. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. (734) 764–0478, ummnh.org.*

U-M Museum of Natural History Planetarium & Dome Theater. *Every Fri.–Sun., except Jan. 1.* Three different audiovisual planetarium shows suitable for all ages, including Expedition Reef (noon), which reveals the secrets of coral reefs, the Earth's most vibrant and endangered marine ecosystems; The Sky Tonight (1 & 3 p.m.), an exploration of the current night sky, with tips on how to find the cardinal directions, constellations, and planets on your own; and T. Rex (2 p.m.), an exploration of the iconic dinosaur's scientific and cinematic history that contains scenes of dinosaur violence. *Noon, 1, 2, & 3 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. $8 at the gift shop. Limited capacity. (734) 764–0480, ummnh.org.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Market & Shops.** *Every Fri., Sat., & Wed.* All invited to play one of 200 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Kids welcome. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Fri. & Wed.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.). Kerrytown Market. Free. ofglobal@aol.com.*

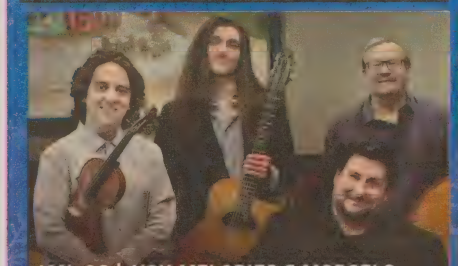
★**"Sticker Scenes": Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults and kids grade K & up to make scenes such as a home, shop, or playground using the library's stickers. *1–2 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Thank You Card Party": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to write, draw, and decorate cards to send to family and friends. *1–2 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

CLASSICAL • JAZZ • CABARET • AVANT-GARDE • WORLD • AND MORE!
WHERE EXCEPTIONAL *music* COMES *home*

JAN. 10 | THE KING-LYMAN-CHENG TRIO
TRIOS DE SALON III: A THIRD SEASON OF MUSIC OF CHARM & WIT

JAN. 17 | THE FISCHER DUO
SPECIAL APPEARANCE! *TREASURES OF THE LATE PERIOD*


JAN. 23 | KCH MELODIES & MORSELS:
FRANCE EDITION WITH Zingerman's DELICATESSEN
AND THIRD COAST SWING FEAT. GRANT FLICK

KCH'S ANNUAL CABARET FUNDRAISER!
JAN. 30-31 @ 7:30 PM | FEB. 1 @ 4 PM
WINE, WOMEN & SONG XXIV
SONGS IN THE KEYS OF LIFE

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bank of ann arbor MEDIA SPONSOR

INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES
at the University of Michigan

Tuukelile Vaa

An Exhibition by **Kaloki Nyamai**
Institute for the Humanities Gallery, 202 S. Thayer
Gallery hours: M-F 9am-5pm
JAN 14 2026 FEB 22

lsa.umich.edu/humanities
LSA INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

★ *Denotes a free event*

★**"Friendship Bracelets: Beyond the Basics": Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults and kids grade 5 & up to learn advanced friendship bracelet patterns, including the chevron, the spiral unicorn horn, and the Peruvian wave. *1–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Self-Guided Lantern-Lit Trail": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Self-guided hike along about a mile of lantern-lit trail through the woods, followed by a campfire and treats. Dog walkers welcome. *6–8:30 p.m. (check in by 7:30 p.m.), Independence Lake County Park Beach Center Pavilion, 3200 Jennings, Whitmore Lake. $15 per household (up to 4 people), plus $6 (nonresidents, $10) vehicle entry fee. Preregistration (one per household) required at washtenaw.org/registerparks (#IL431310). independencelake@washtenaw.org.*

D&D Adventurers League: Sylvan Factory. *Every Fri.* All invited to play the current official campaign of the popular Dungeons & Dragons tabletop role-playing game, using 5th-edition rules. Kids under 13 must have parent or guardian accompaniment. *6–10 p.m., Sylvan Factory, 2459 W. Stadium. $10. Space limited, preregistration strongly recommended at sylvanfactory.com/events. (734) 929–5877.*

★**"KPop Demon Hunters Party": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited for games and crafts to celebrate this massively popular animated movie. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

First Friday Shabbat: Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for dinner from a local restaurant, preceded by a brief secular Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, and challah & wine rituals. Kids welcome. *6:30–8 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow. $10 (families, $25) for nonmembers; members, free. Preregistration required at jewishculturalsociety.org.*

Magic: The Gathering: Sylvan Factory. *Every Mon.–Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play both casual and tournament forms of the collectible card game Magic: The Gathering (MTG). *Mon. (6:30 p.m.):* **"Just Another Modern Monday."** Three rounds using powerful cards, for experienced players, with prizes. $10. *Tues. (6:30 p.m.):* **"MTG Pauper."** A fun and fast format for all skill levels, three rounds. $5. *Wed. & Sat. (5 p.m.):* **"Casual Commander Night."** A drop-in session of the most popular form of the game. Free. *Wed. (6:30 p.m.):* **"MTG Standard Showdown."** Three rounds, with competitive tournament rules, prizes of store credit. $10. *Fri. (6:30 p.m.):* **"Friday Night Magic."** Cost and format vary. *Various times, Sylvan Factory, 2459 W. Stadium. Various costs. (734) 929–5877, sylvanfactory.com.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. USC. The U-M also plays home games this month vs. **Wisconsin** (Jan. 10, 1 or 2 p.m., sold out), **Indiana** (Jan. 20, 7 p.m.), **Ohio State** (Jan. 23, 8 p.m., *sold out*), & **Nebraska** (Jan. 27, 7 p.m.). *7 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets from $33 in advance at mgoblue.com. (734) 764–0247.*

"Adult Open Hours & Creature Encounters": The Creature Conservancy. *Fri., Jan. 2 & 16 and every Sat. & Sun.* During the **Friday Adult Open Hours** (age 18+ only), conservancy staffers show off some representatives of at-risk species, including an **axolotl,** a **wood turtle,** a **clouded leopard,** and a **blue-throated macaw** at 7:30 p.m. On Sat. and Sun., the first three animals are presented at 1 & 4 p.m., and an animal keeper talks about the blue-throated macaw at 2 & 3 p.m. All tickets include a chance to see the conservancy's other animals. *7–9 p.m. (Fri.) & noon–5 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), CC, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $15 (kids ages 2–12, $13; under age 2, free) cash or credit at the door only. (734) 929–9324, thecreatureconservancy.org.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Rob Ward: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 2 & 3.* Popular Cleveland comic, a former *Showtime at the Apollo* winner, whose smiling, warm delivery lets him get away with almost any subject matter, from his feelings about dating skinny women to how he explained sex the wrong way to his daughters. Opening act TBA. *7:15 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

"DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto": Theatre Nova. *Every Fri.–Sun., Dec. 5–Jan. 4.* Mike Sandusky directs Carla Milarch and R. MacKenzie Lewis's latest seasonal panto comedy, a hip-hop version of the English folktale of Dick Whittington. Loosely based on a lord mayor of London in the late Middle Ages, Whittington rises from poverty to wealth by selling his cat to a rat-infested town. British panto is a genre that blends familiar children's stories with a bit of vaudeville to create a raucous family entertainment. Theatre Nova's panto, a popular annual tradition, usually sells out. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St. Tickets $32 (seniors, $25; students, $15; age 16 and under, $12) in advance at theatrenova.org & at the door. (734) 635–8450.*

Friday Night Improv: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Every Fri.* Performance by **Eleven Non-Blondes,** a house team of experienced improvisers. *7:30–9 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

"Annual Ann Arbor 50 First Jokes": The Ark. Fifty comics from around Michigan, both veterans and newcomers, take turns telling the first joke they've written in 2026. Similar events, which began at the Bell House in Brooklyn more than a decade ago, now also take place in New Orleans and L.A. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $24 in advance at theark.org, $20 (if available) at the door. (734) 761–1451.*

Riverside Swings: Riverside Arts Center. *Every Fri.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner or experience required. Wear comfortable low-grip/tread shoes. Preceded at 7 and 8 p.m. by hour-long lessons. Followed by a "late night blues-&-fusion" dance. The 1st Friday of each month is free, and the 3rd Fridays include a Charleston lesson. *9–11 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. $5 (students, $4). riversidearts.org/riverside-swings.*

3 SATURDAY

★**parkrun USA.** *Every Sat.* All invited to join a timed but noncompetitive 5K run/walk. In the winter, course adjustments for the best footing may move the run to Lillie Park North or Hanselman Dr. Check facebook.com/lillieparkrun for the final location. *9 a.m., Lillie Park South at the northeast corner of the soccer fields, 4365 Platt. Free, but first-timers are requested to preregister at parkrun.us/register and arrive at 8:45 a.m. lillie@parkrun.com, parkrun.us/lillie.*

"Walk with Friends: Winged Ones": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. All invited to join WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance for a 2-mile walk at a gradual pace on a level, paved surface to learn how wild birds survive the winter. Gather at 8:30 indoors for coffee, tea, and conversation. *9–10:30 a.m., Rolling Hills County Park lodge, 7660 Stony Creek Rd. Free, but $6 (nonresidents, $10) vehicle entry fee. Email severances@washtenaw.org with questions.*

★**Candidate Forum: The Washtenaw County Democratic Party.** Discussion with Democratic candidates for governor **Garlin Gilchrist** and **Chris Swanson,** followed by a panel discussion about Washtenaw County responses to federal cuts in housing assistance. *9:15 a.m.–noon, Washtenaw County Learning Resources Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave. and on Zoom; URL at washtenawdems.org/calendar. Free.*

★**"Morning Music @9:29": Northside Community Church.** *Jan. 3 & 17.* Local pianist-organist Kathryn Goodson is joined

SEAN CARTER PHOTOGRAPHY.

Alaina Kerr appears in Theatre Nova's "DJ Whittington's Kool Kat: A Hip-Hop Panto" through Jan. 4.

by U-M music students in performances of classical music programs TBA. On the 17th, selections pay tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. Coffee & refreshments. *9:29 a.m., NCC, 929 Barton Dr. Free. kgoodson@umich.edu.*

★**Fiber Arts Drop-In: Riverside Arts Center.** All invited to work on their sewing projects. Basic supplies and knowledgeable staff available. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Free; donations welcome. riversidearts.org/events.*

★**"BIPOC Friendly Hike": Shades of the Outdoors.** An opportunity for people from BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, people of color) communities and their allies to hike about 1.5 miles together. *11 a.m., County Farm Park, 2230 Platt. Free. shadesoftheoutdoors.org.*

Critter House Open Hours: Leslie Science & Nature Center. *Every Sat. & Sun.* A chance to view LSNC birds of prey and its Critter House animals, which include frogs, turtles, snakes, and other species native to Michigan. *Noon–3 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver. $5 suggested donation. (734) 997–1553, lesliesnc.org.*

★**"How to Become a Fossil": U-M Museum of Natural History Discovery Demos.** *Every Sat. & Sun.* Hands-on 20-minute family-oriented demo for age 5 & up about how fossils form and what they can tell us about ancient animals' behaviors and diet. *12:30 & 2:30 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. (734) 764–0478, ummnh.org.*

★**Letterpress Open Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 3, 7, 15, & 28 (different times).* All adults invited to learn the basics of letterpress printing with movable type. *1–3 p.m. (Jan. 3) and 5–7 p.m. (Jan. 7, 15, & 28). AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Museum Highlight Tours: U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Sat.* 30-minute tour of the museum's exhibits and galleries, as well as an introduction to some current U-M Biological Sciences research projects. *1:30 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. Limited capacity. Sign up at the welcome desk. (734) 764–0478.*

★**"Looking Forward to 2026: A Mini-Zine of Aspirations": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids grade K & up invited to make a mini-magazine to record hopes and goals for the coming year. *2–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**DJ Workshop: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for teens and adults to learn the basics of mixing & beat-matching and get hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Punk Embroidery": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and teens invited to learn 3 simple stitches, then use them to embroider a design onto a large patch for the back of a shirt or jacket. Bring a cotton T-shirt to decorate. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Lift Off: Student Showcase": Aviary Aerial & Circus Arts. Students and instructors from this local school showcase dance, pole dance, burlesque, aerial dance, and circus act routines. Parental discretion advised. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. *2 p.m., Aviary Studio, 2875 Boardwalk Dr., ste. A. Tickets $17 in advance at a2aviary.com/upcoming-shows. Preregistration required. contact@a2aviary.com.*

Drop-In Improv Games: Ypsi Improv. *Every Sat.* All age 16 & up invited to learn about and participate in improv games in a fun, relaxed, and judgment-free setting. No experience necessary. *2–4 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Tickets $8–$10 (spectators, free) in advance via PayPal or Venmo linked from meetup.com/ypsi-improv, and in cash at the door.*

★**Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance.** *Jan. 3 & 17.* Jam session open to all musicians interested in working on jigs, reels, and waltzes to have fun, learn tunes, and develop contra dance music skills. All instruments welcome. Bring the *Ruffwater Fakebook*, the *Portland Collection*, and the *Waltz Books* if you have them. *3–5 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. (734) 709–8748.*

First Saturday International & Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Drake Meadow calls an hour of international dances at 7 p.m., followed by contras at 8 p.m. to music by 'Twas Brillig and the Mazel Toves. Bring clean shoes for dancing. Preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. with a silent auction fundraiser; bring items to donate and money to buy. *5:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10–$15 suggested donation. (734) 274–0773, aactmad.org/contra.*

"Family Animal Movie Trivia Night": The Creature Conservancy. All invited to participate in this animal movie-themed trivia game. At least one guest per team must download the Kahoot! app on their phone or other device to play. Also, the chance to see the conservancy's other animals. For age 5 & up. *6–7:30 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $25/person. Preregistration required at thecreatureconservancy.org, (734) 929–9324.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. U.S. NTDP U-18. The U-M team, currently the number one–ranked team nationally, plays this USA Hockey development team. There is also a *sold-out double-header* this month against **Notre Dame** (Jan. 9 & 10, both 7 p.m.). *7 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Tickets from $20 in advance only at mgoblue.com. (734) 764–0247.*

Rob Ward: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Friday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

Saturday Night Improv: Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Every Sat.* House team **Destination Unknown** improvises based on a scenario suggested by the audience. Two guest troupes open. *8:30–9:45 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

4 SUNDAY

★**Ann Arbor Group Runs: Fleet Feet.** *Every Sun., Tues., & Wed.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a run of 3–5 miles along varying routes from different locations. Rain or shine. *8 a.m. (Sun.) & 7 a.m. (Tues.), Dozer Coffee, 112 Jackson Plz.; and 7 p.m. (Wed.), Fleet Feet, 123 E. Liberty. Free. (734) 929–9022 (Sun. & Tues.) & (734) 769–5016 (Wed.). fleetfeetsemichigan.com.*

Elemental Ecstatic Dance. *Every Sun.* Dancers of all ages and abilities invited for free-form dancing to a variety of recorded music, from EDM to classical and ambient to world music. Wear loose clothes, barefoot or stocking feet. *10:45 a.m.–1 p.m. A2 Yoga, 2030 Commerce Blvd. $20 (age 11 and under, free) cash or Venmo (@andjru) at the door only. tinyurl.com/ecstatic-dance-a2.*

★**Studio Ghibli Celebration: Ann Arbor District Library.** A day of crafts, trivia, and other activities for all ages celebrating the films of this noted Japanese anime studio, along with **screenings** in the lower level program rm. (see Films). *11 a.m.–4 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327-4200.*

★**Christmas Choir Cantata: Westminster Presbyterian Church.** Shawn McDonald directs the church choir and a chamber ensemble of professional musicians in a performance of Joseph M. Martin's "Winter's Grace: A Cantata for Christmas," which combines Martin's original music with traditional carols. *11 a.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. (734) 761–9320.*

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to a relaxed pick-up game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Note: Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. (734) 846–9418, hac-ultimatelist@googlegroups.com.*

Contact Improv. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. No partner required; beginners welcome. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. by a lesson. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2340 Oak Valley. $15 ($25 includes lesson). Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2-contact-wi2026. caragraninger@gmail.*

★**Group Runs: A2 Runners.** *Every Sun., Mon., & Wed.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a beginner or advanced 3- to 5-mile group run, followed by socializing at a downtown coffee shop. *Noon (Sun.) & 6:30 p.m. (Mon. & Wed.), meet at the Kerrytown clock tower. Preregistration requested at meetup.com/a2runners. Free. stevesttn88@gmail.com.*

★**Open Board Games: Sylvan Factory.** *Every Sun.* All invited to play one of a wide variety of board games in a casual, friendly atmosphere. Instruction provided. Also, on Jan. 4, **game playtesting with Michigame Design Lab** (2 p.m.), during which players are invited to try out new board and card games from local designers Bruce Bielawa & Joe Hopkins and provide feedback. *Noon–6 p.m., Sylvan Factory, 2459 W. Stadium. Free. info@sylvanfactory.com.*

★**Collage Making: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids age 5 & up invited to make collages out of old magazines. Supplies provided. *1–3 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Chesstastic": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids age 5 & up invited to drop in

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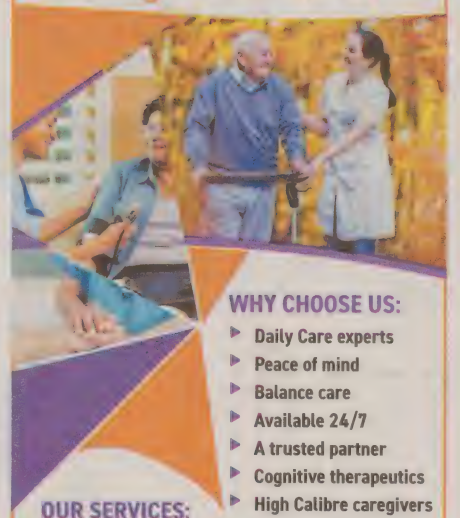

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and play chess on AADL sets. All skill levels welcome. Instruction not provided. *1–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Walking with Whales Tour": U-M Museum of Natural History.** *Every Sun.* Thirty-minute tour that uses the museum's specimens to tell the story of prehistoric whales and dolphins, who had 4 limbs and walked on land. *1:30 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. Limited capacity. Sign up at the welcome desk. (734) 764–0478.*

Social Tango Dances: Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *Every Sun. (except Jan. 11).* Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. The Jan. 25 dance is preceded at 2 p.m. by a **Tango Foundations** class ($5) in the Michigan Union 1st fl. Atria. The club also hosts a series of informal classes for beginners on Jan. 15, 22, & 29 (7–9:30 p.m.) that include one-on-one instruction and open dancing. *2–5 p.m. (Jan. 4 & 18) & 3–6 p.m. (Jan. 25), Michigan Union Movement Studio or Anderson Rm. $10 (students, free). matctango@umich.edu.*

★**"Both Sides of the Line: Carmen Herrera & Leon Polk Smith": UMMA Exhibition Tour.** UMMA curators lead a tour of this show (closing today) that exhibits, for the first time, the work of these two neighbors, friends, and pioneers of geometric abstraction presented side by side in more than 45 paintings, drawings, and sculptures**.** *2–3 p.m., UMMA A. Alfred Taubman Gallery I, 525 S. State St. Free. Preregistration required at umma.umich.edu/events (space limited).*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish morisca. Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. Free. a2morris@umich.edu.*

"Extra Credit": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Three 10-minute academic lectures by U-M researchers on topics TBA, each followed by a 10-minute improv comedy set on the topic by experienced improvisers. *6:30–7:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

★**"The UnClub": The Theater Shop.** *Jan. 4 & 18.* Performances by aspiring and experienced comics. The humor is appropriate for adults. *7:30 p.m., the Ypsi Alehouse, 124 Pearl, ste. 100, Ypsi. Free. facebook.com/unclubshow.*

5 MONDAY

★**Sewing Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 5 & 20.* All invited to get basic sewing help with their unfinished projects or learn how to use the AADL sewing machines. Bring your own sewing machine, if you wish. No experience necessary. Also, local sewing instructor Rae Hoekstra discusses **seam finishing** (Jan. 5) and local crafter Amber Adams-Fall demonstrates **bias binding** (Jan. 20). *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Minnesota. The U-M also has home games this month against **Wisconsin** (Jan. 11, 2 p.m.), **Illinois** (Jan. 15, 7 p.m.), & **USC** (Jan. 25, 2 p.m.). *6:30 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets $8–$12 in advance at mgoblue.com and at the gate. (734) 764–0247.*

"The Death of Us": Literati Bookstore Genres Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Abigail Dean's bestselling novel about a couple whose relationship is upended when a serial killer breaks into their home. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Tickets $5 (can be redeemed for store credit) in advance only at literatibookstore.com. (734) 585–5567.*

"Speaking of Pleasantville": Chelsea Area Historical Society. Locals Laurie Gravelyn & Angie Smith discuss growing up in mid-20th-century Chelsea. Hosted by Linda Meloche. *7 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson St., Chelsea. Suggested donation $10 at the door only (CAHS members, free). chelseahistory.org/events.*

Tartan and Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon.* Learn to dance jigs, reels, and strathspeys. All dances taught. Usually with live music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, and friends. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 suggested donation (first-timers free). (734) 474–7299, (734) 274–0773.*

★**Comedy Show: The Blind Pig.** *Every Mon.* Performances from up to 15 aspiring stand-up comics from around the state. Local comics emcee. Age 21 & up only. Free candy. *8–9:30 p.m., Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. Free. (734) 996–8555.*

6 TUESDAY

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Tues., Thurs., & Fri., except Jan. 2.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge (Tues. & Fri.) and a 499er game (Thurs.) for players with no more than 499 ACBL master points. *1–4 p.m. or so (arrive by 12:45 p.m.), City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $9 per person. If you plan to come without a partner, email janeannarborcityclub@gmail.com.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Scrabble Club.** *Every Tues.* All invited to play the classic word game, using the 5th-edition Scrabble dictionary. Bring your own set, if you like. *4–7 p.m., Corner Brewery, 720 Norris St., Ypsi. Free. meetup.com/ann-arbor-scrabble-meetup.*

★**"Handmade Felt Food: Mushrooms": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to make colorful toy mushrooms out of felt. This beginner-level craft involves using needles. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Folk Song Jam Along": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski lead this family-friendly sing-along of familiar folk and pop songs. Lyrics and chords projected. Musicians invited to bring their own acoustic instruments. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. folksongjamalong@gmail.com.*

★**"Tour de Dirt": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Every Tues.* 20- to 35-mile ride along Chelsea-area dirt roads. See aabts.org for weather cancellations or delays. *6:15 p.m., meet at Aberdeen Bike, 1101 Main, Chelsea. Free. For each week's route, email scimitargs@gmail.com.*

Tuesday English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught and prompted; no complicated steps, and no partner or experience needed. Bring clean, flat, nonslip shoes and your own water bottle. First-timers asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. *7–9:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. Suggested donation: $8–$12 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with caregiver, free). (734) 665–7704, aactmad.org/english-country.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Tues. except Jan. 27.* Singers of all genders invited to join this rehearsal. *7–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center, 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). (734) 796–7467, info@hvharmonizers.org, tinyurl.com/hvharmonizers.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *Jan. 6 & 20.* Club members share their projected digital slides (Jan. 6) and prints (Jan. 20) on various topics, including this month's assignment, **"Humorous."** Also, **members introduce themselves** and share photos (Jan. 6), and local photographer and educator Peter Hoffman gives a presentation titled **"Reality Is Enough: The Importance of Documentary Photography in the Age of AI."** (Jan. 20). Guests asked to arrive 15 minutes early. *7–9 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. a2camclub@gmail.com, annarborcameraclub.org.*

★**Voices in Harmony.** Female singers invited to join a rehearsal of this local 40-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30*

p.m., UAW Local 898, 8975 Textile, Ypsi. Free to visitors (dues for those who join). (734) 765–3611, info@voicesinharmonychorus.org.

★**"Alehouse Poets Open Reading": The Theater Shop.** All invited to read an original short poem, or a favorite by another writer. Listeners welcome. Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m. *7–8:30 p.m., Ypsi Alehouse, 124 Pearl, ste. 100, Ypsi. Free. facebook.com/thetheatershop.*

"Comedy Gauntlet": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Every Tues.* Ninety-second sets by each of 16 area stand-up comics, advancing tournament-style until a winner is decided. Followed at 9 p.m. by **"Say What?" Comedy Open Mic** hosted by local comics Ned Rice and Jeff Teed. All 18 & up invited to sign up for 6-minute sets. *8 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at crowdwork.com/e/comedy-gauntlet, $18 (if available) at the door. 9 p.m. show, free. hello@heardotsay.com.*

★**Crafty Hour: Bløm Mead + Cider.** *Every Tues.* All invited to bring and work on their non-messy crafting projects (knitting, collage, etc.). *8–10 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. $1 off all 12-oz. pours. (734) 548–9729.*

7 WEDNESDAY

"CommuniTEA Table": The Washtenaw Food Hub. *Every Wed.* Food- and agriculture-related discussions & demos, with tastings.

seniors

★**Activities: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** 1320 Baldwin, a2gov.org/senior. Weekly activities. Preregistration required (if specified) by calling (734) 794–6250 or emailing bpatton@a2gov.org. **Lunch Meetup** *(Jan. 6, 11:30 a.m.).* Buy your own lunch and meet up at a restaurant TBA on registration (register by Jan. 5). **ACBL-Sanctioned Bridge** *(Thurs. noon–3:30 p.m.).* $9; members, $8. **Senior Mall Walks** *(Jan. 5 & 7, and Fri. 10–11 a.m., except Jan. 2).* Guided one-mile walks through Briarwood Mall. $2; members, free. Preregistration required. **Bridge** *(Mon., except Jan. 5, 12:30–3:30 p.m.).* Non-sanctioned duplicate. $5; members, $3. Preregistration required. **Scrabble** *(Wed. 1:30–3 p.m., except Jan. 7).* $2; members, free.

★**Talks & Events: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** 1320 Baldwin. Senior-focused talks. Free. Preregistration required for all talks and meetings by calling (734) 794–6250, emailing bpatton@a2gov.org, or going to a2gov.org/senior. *Jan. 12 (10 a.m.–noon):* **"Potato Bacon Soup and Herb Focaccia."** Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation environmental educator Eleva Potter leads attendees in making and eating this simple lunch together. Supplies provided. *Jan. 14 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Healthy Skin in Winter."** With Chicago dermatologist Cody Funkhouser. Also, coffee, snacks, and goodie bags. *Jan. 15 (1:30–4 p.m.):* **"Travels with George: Italy: The Amalfi Coast & Tuscany."** Slideshow and talk. *Jan. 19 (10–11 a.m.):* **"Brunch & Learn: Aging in Place."** With a Visiting Angels representative. Free light brunch. *Jan. 21 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Lunch & Learn: Tips and Support for Seniors."** With an IndeQuest Nurse Care Management representative. Free light lunch. *Jan. 22 (5–7 p.m.):* **"Winter Bird Portraits."** City environmental educator Eleva Potter shows how to create a bird portrait using Pan Pastels. Supplies provided. Registration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec. *Jan. 28 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Lunch & Learn: Tips and Support for Seniors."** With an Open Arms Hospice representative. Free light lunch. *Jan. 29 (5:30–6:30 p.m.):* **"Nature Nerds Book Club."** Eleva Potter (see above) leads a discussion about how animals survive winter based on Bernd Heinrich's *Winter World.* No need to have finished the book. Registration required at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec.

★**Activities: Pittsfield Township Senior Center.** *Closed Jan. 1, 2, & 19.* 701 W. Ellsworth. Free, except as noted. Preregistration required for all events at (734) 822–2120 or recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov. **Rise & Shine** (Mon. & Fri. 9–10 a.m.). Morning exercise. **Creative Writers** (Mon. 10 a.m.). Bring current project; no instruction given. **Ukulele Practice** (Mon. 10:30–11:30 a.m.). No instruction given. **Living Solo Social Group** (Mon. Jan. 5, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.). Socializing for seniors living alone; not a support group. **American (& some Chinese) mah-jongg** (Mon. 1–3 p.m., and Tues. 10 a.m.–noon). All levels welcome. **Euchre** (Tues. 1–3 p.m.). **Watercolor & Painting** (Wed. 10–11:30 a.m.). Bring current project and supplies; no instruction given. **Book Club** (Wed. Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m.–noon), Catherine Newman's comic novel *Sandwich.* **Bingo** (Wed. 1–3 p.m.). **Computer Help** (Thurs. 9–11:45 a.m. in 15-minute slots). With Jack Spence. **Senior Social Coffee Group** (Jan. 8, 11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m.). Socializing for seniors. **Men's Group** (Thurs. 2–4 p.m.). Discussion group. **Crafting Crew** (Fri. 10–11:30 a.m.). Bring your current project, no instruction given. **Chinese mah-jongg** (Fri. 1–3 p.m.). **Open Game Play** (Fri. 1–3 p.m.). **Tai Chi** (Jan. 13, 20, & 27, 2:30–3:30 p.m.).

★**Talks & Events: Pittsfield Township Senior Center.** *Closed Jan. 1, 2, & 19.* 701 W. Ellsworth. Free unless noted. Preregistration required for all events at (734) 822–2120 or recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov. *Jan. 9 (10 a.m.–noon):* **"Rock Painting: Winter Themes,"** $15 (residents, $10) fee includes instruction and supplies. *Jan. 12 (3:10–4:10 p.m.):* **"Tech Townhall,"** Saline High School students offer tech support; bring your device. *Jan. 15 (11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.):* **"Hospice Myth vs. Reality Lunch & Learn,"** presented by an Open Arms Hospice representative. Registration required by Jan. 8 for lunch. *Jan. 21 (3:30–4:30 p.m.):* **"Investment Perspective."** Presented by an Edward Jones representative. *Jan. 22 (11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.):* **"Being Dementia-Friendly,"** Jim Mangi of Dementia Friendly Services (see Inside Ann Arbor) discusses practical ways to make life easier for people with dementia.

★**Activities: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** 2401 Plymouth Rd. Closed Dec. 24–Jan. 2. Weekly activities. Free, except as noted. Preregistration required for some events. For Zoom links see calendar at tinyurl.com/turner-snr-calendar. (734) 998–9353, tswp.info@umich.edu, michmed.org/tswp. **Tai Chi** (Mon., Wed., & Fri. noon–12:30 p.m. via Zoom). **Walking Off the Pounds** (Mon., Wed., & Fri. 12:30–1 p.m. via Zoom). **Euchre** (Mon. 1–3 p.m.). **Mindfulness Meditation** (Tues. 10–11:30 a.m. via Zoom). Some experience required. **Bridge** (Tues. & Fri. 1–4 p.m.). Call if interested. **Una Tertulia** (Jan. 6 & 20, 3:15–5 p.m.). For native Spanish speakers. **LGBTQ+ Coffee & Chat** (Jan. 14 & 28, noon–2 p.m.; preregistration required). **Open Chinese mah-jongg** (Wed. 1–4 p.m. & Thurs. 10 a.m.–noon). **Wise Guys: Conversations for Men** (Thurs. 2–3:30 p.m. via Zoom).

★**Talks & Events: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/turner-snr-calendar. (734) 998–9353, tswp.info@umich.edu, michmed.org/tswp. *Jan. 21 (1:30–3:30 p.m.):* **"Identifying and Avoiding Scams."** *Jan. 28 (10–11:30 a.m.):* **"Michigan Senior Implant Overdenture Restorative Program Informational Session,"** via Zoom. *Jan. 29 (10–11:30 a.m.):* **"Simple, Safe, and Smart Ways AI Can Make Life Easier."**

★ *Denotes a free event*

Jan. 7: **"Brew'd: Raw Nut & Seed Crackers."** Ypsi brewer Rachel Kanaan shows how to make nutrient-dense raw and fermented crackers in a food dehydrator. *Jan. 14:* **"Tantré Farm CSA Program."** Tantré Farm cofounder Deb Lentz on this community-supported farm. *Jan. 21:* **"Brew'd: Mead Making Pt. 2."** Rachel Kanaan and Mason Shipe on the basics of brewing honey wine. $5 at the door. *Jan. 28:* **"Stitch & B!%@#."** Knitters and crocheters invited to work on projects while local fiber artist Robin Lehman introduces some natural fibers. *5–6 p.m., Washtenaw Food Hub, 4175 Whitmore Lake Rd. Free, except as noted. thewashtenawfoodhub.com.*

★**Ypsi Fine Arts Club: Riverside Arts Center.** *Jan. 7 & 21.* Local artists show 1 or 2 pieces of their work, some of which may be for sale. If you'd like to show your own work, sign in by 6 p.m. Also, a **fine art raffle** ($5). *5–8 p.m., RAC, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Free admission. riversidearts.org/events.*

★**Board Game Night: Bløm Mead + Cider.** *Every Wed.* All invited to play popular board games. Use provided games or bring your own. *5–10 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

★**"Vision Boards": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to make a collage of motivational images, words, and affirmations. *6–7 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Figure Drawing: Dzanc House. *Jan. 7 & 21.* All skill levels welcome to draw a live model. Bring your own art supplies. Light refreshments. *6:30–9 p.m., Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. $10 to pay model. Preregistration required at least 2 days in advance at dzanchouse.org/register-for-events.*

DuPont-Phillips: On The Tracks Songwriter Showcase. Duo of Ypsi indie folk-rock singer-songwriter Chris DuPont and Kylee Phillips, a Plymouth singer-songwriter who performs warm, introspective pop-folk songs. *7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson St., Chelsea. $20 suggested donation. onthetracksss@gmail.com, onthetrackschelsea.com.*

★**"Quakers: Who Are We?": Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.** *Jan. 7 & 21.* A small group of local Quakers answers questions and discusses their beliefs and practices. *7–8 p.m., Friends Meeting House, corner rm., 1420 Hill. Livestream available. Free. annarborfriends.org.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Jan. 7, 21, & 28.* All invited to play friendly, competitive ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. Arrive 20 minutes early if coming without a partner. Call before coming to check that the game is being held. *7–10:30 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline. (Park in marked spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. (734) 945–6021.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wed.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring and established area stand-up comics. On Jan. 7, attendees can mingle with the comics before they hit the stage during **"Comedy Nerdz Happy Hour"** (5:30–6:30 p.m.). *7:15 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $5 in advance at aacomedy.com; $6 at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

★**Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** The chance to see trains whizzing around on a big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. info@aamrc.org.*

"Dimanche": Chaliwaté and Focus Companies (University Musical Society). *Jan. 7–11. See preview above.* Two award-winning Belgian theater companies—one specializing in puppetry, the other in mime—use humor, video, puppets, and dance to explore, in parallel action, themes of the effects of climate change on a European family trying to eat their Sunday dinner and on wild animals in the Arctic Circle. "Gorgeously realized and sneakily terrifying, the play moves restively from the silly to the dreadful and back and forth again," according to the *New York Times. 7:30 p.m. (Wed.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $44 in advance ($15–$20, students) at ums.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. (734) 764–2538.*

★**Depot Town Open Mic Comedy Night.** *Every Wed.* Stand-up comedy open mic emceed by local comic Lisa Green. All age 18 & up welcome to listen, or sign up for a 5-minute set starting at 7 p.m. *7:30–10:30 p.m., 734 Brewing Company, 15 E. Cross St., Ypsi. Free. (734) 340–3468.*

theater preview

Dimanche: *A Theater of Few Words*

Furniture melts. Walls shake. A shark swims through a flooded home. In a series of vignettes that together run seventy-five minutes, *Dimanche* imagines the future horrors of the climate crisis using puppetry, mime, acrobatics, clowning, and video. The stories come together as three reporters try to document the events that assault panicked wild animals and a family bent on ignoring reality and going on as usual.

Oh, and it's a comedy.

Sandrine Heyraud, who coauthored and codirected the piece with Julie Tenret and Sicaire Durieux, says when floods ravaged their Belgium communities in 2022, she and her collaborators were starting to have children. Their anxiety about the future escalated, and in the face of climate change denial, she says, "we knew we had to act urgently." But they didn't want to lecture the audience; they wanted to entertain and move it. "The challenge was to bring comedy into this tragedy. Humor creates distance that can be very profound."

The three, who also appear in the show, bring two award-winning Belgian companies together: Focus, a puppet theater, and Chaliwaté, a mime theater. "We use different tools to speak the same theater language: very poetical and metaphorical with very little spoken word," Heyraud says.

When Mary Roeder, University Musical Society associate director of programming, saw a vignette from the show in Edinburgh, she found it "poignant, meaningful, and also a lot of fun." When she returned to see the final work, which she says "allows people to contemplate big ideas about the state of the earth in a way that doesn't feel preachy," she wanted to bring it here. Reviewers in New York, Australia, and Europe share her assessment.

The show may have fun to spare, but *Dimanche* serves a larger vision and aims to change minds. Heyraud hopes "the power of theater and art to create community will give audiences the motivation to act and make changes."

Dimanche *runs Jan. 7–11 at the Power Center (see listing).*

—Davi Napoleon

8 THURSDAY

"The U-M Refugee Gardens Initiative": Ann Arbor Farm & Garden. U-M global activities student **Phimmasone Kym Owens** discusses the program she founded to ease the transition of refugees to the U.S. As a refugee herself in the 1980s, Owens couldn't find the foods she was familiar with from her native Laos. *1–2 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Livestream available. $5 (members, free). Preregistration required by midnight Jan. 1 at annarborfarmandgarden.org.*

★**Concerto Competition Finals: U-M Music School.** *Jan. 8 & 9.* Undergraduate (Thurs.) & graduate (Fri.) music students perform their competition solos. Winners will be featured as a soloist with one of the music student orchestras in a concert this spring. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. (734) 764–0583.*

★**Riso Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to use analog tools to create a 2-color design for a 2026 calendar, and print it with the lab's Risograph duplicator, a kind of digital screen printer similar to a photocopier. *5–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**U-M Center for Europe and Eurasia Lecture Series.** *Jan. 8 & 26 (different times).* Talks by U-M & visiting scholars. *Jan. 8:* U-M history grad student Danielle Leavitt on **"Ukraine's War in Seven Lives: Writing a People-Centered History of the Present."** *Jan. 26:* American University in Kosovo information professor Driart Elshani on **"AI for National and International Security: Opportunities Without Losing Control."** *5 p.m. (Jan. 8) & 4 p.m. (Jan. 26), 555 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–0351.*

★**"Repairsday Thursday": All Hands Active.** *Every Thurs., except Jan. 1.* All invited to drop in with broken electronics, furniture, toys, or any other item they'd like to try to repair or repurpose with the help and guidance of AHA members. Repairs not guaranteed. *6–8 p.m., AHA, basement of 255 E. Liberty, ste. 225. Livestream available at meetup.com/allhandsactive/events. Free; donations welcome. info@allhandsactive.org.*

★**Live Trivia: Bløm Mead + Cider.** *Every Thurs., except Jan. 1.* Bløm staffers lead 2 rounds of trivia. Teams or single players welcome. Prizes. *7 & 8 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

"Duoplicity Improv Jam": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. All improvisers with some experience are invited to be randomly paired up to perform a 6-minute scene. Spectators welcome. *7–8 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $7.50 in advance at heardotsay.com/events and at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

★**"Nerd Nite": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults age 21 & up invited to this popular monthly event featuring three speakers TBA (at annarbor.nerdnite.com) who give fun yet informative 20-minute talks about things that interest them, anything from the lives of viruses to the story of how Margaret Wise Brown helped free kids books from the dungeon of fairy tales. *7–9 p.m., LIVE, 102 S. First St. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Singing for Comfort": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to join a sing-along of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. *7–8:30 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free. (734) 327–0270.*

★**Ann Arbor Trout Unlimited.** Members of the Huron River Watershed Council present on the watershed. This fisheries conservation organization's monthly meeting is preceded at 5:30 p.m. by a social hour. *7 p.m., Jolly Pumpkin, 2319 Bishop Cir. E., Dexter. Free; food and drink available for purchase. annarbortu.org.*

★**"Meteorites": Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Club member Jeff Stevens presents, and shows off examples from his collection. Refreshments. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. (734) 665–5574.*

★**Detroit Irish Music Association Seisiún.** *Every Thurs., starting Jan. 8.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *7–9 p.m., Grace Church, main bldg., 3150 Glazier Way. Free. contact@detroitirishmusic.org, detroitirishmusic.org.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 & 7 p.m.

Caitlin Peluffo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 8–10.* Gruff, sharp, and quick-witted Brooklyn comic, a regular on the NYC comedy club scene, whose "lovable loose cannon" persona lets her tackle a range of taboo subjects including women's bodies, dating foibles, and STDs. Opening act TBA. *7:15 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $21 (Thurs., $16) at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Thurs., except Jan. 1.* Popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team of up to 6 people. Prizes. *7:30 p.m. or so, Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee that goes to the winning team. (734) 665–2968.*

"Dimanche": Chaliwaté and Focus Companies (University Musical Society). See 7 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

9 FRIDAY

★**U-M Men's & Women's Swimming & Diving vs. Indiana.** The U-M also has a home meet this month against **Denison** (Jan. 31, noon). *Noon, Canham Natatorium, 500 E. Hoover. Free. (734) 764–0247.*

★**"Midday Morsel Drop-In Tour": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** 30-minute docent-led tour of ancient artifacts. *12:30 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State (meet at the Maynard St. entrance). Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★**Board Game Night: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & kids age 8 & up invited to play board games from the AADL collection, including Splendor, Outfoxed, Clue, Sushi Go, Azul, Dixit, Carcassonne, Scrabble, and others. Attendees are also invited to bring their own games from home. *5–7 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Euchre Change a Life!" *Every Fri., except Jan. 2.* Five-game euchre tournament. Sign up with a partner, or get paired with one by the organizers. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Haitian children via Haitian Christian Outreach. *6:30–9 p.m., HOMES Campus, 112 Jackson Plz. $15 (HOMES community members, $10). euchrechangealife@gmail.com.*

★**"The Rest of Our Lives": Ann Arbor District Library/Literati Bookstore.** London-based writer **Ben Markovits** is joined by local writer Amanda Uhle to discuss his acclaimed new novel about a man who drops his youngest daughter off at college, then, rather than returning home to his wife, sets out driving west with a vague plan of visiting people from his past. Signing. *6:30 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Ann Arborville Horror Book Club": Booksweet Bookshop.** All invited to discuss ***Nestlings,*** Nat Cassidy's 2023 urban horror novel about a NYC couple who win a lottery for an affordable apartment in a prestigious but eerie building. *7–8 p.m., Booksweet, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre

Company. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Caitlin Peluffo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

"The Humans": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *Jan. 9–11, 16–18.* Cassie Mann directs local actors in Stephen Karam's 2016 Tony-winning one-act play, described by the *New York Times* as "blisteringly funny, bruisingly sad and altogether wonderful," about an uncomfortable family Thanksgiving dinner in a shabby basement apartment in New York City's Chinatown. Recommended for mature audiences. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Civic Theatre, 322 W. Ann. Tickets $20 (seniors, $17; students, $10) at a2ct.org and (if available) at the door. (734) 971-2228.*

"Dimanche": Chaliwaté and Focus Companies (University Musical Society). See 7 Wednesday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Femme Feedback" Comedy Night: Bløm Mead + Cider.** A variety of female and trans comics try out new material, with a veteran comic presiding to offer feedback. *8–10 p.m. Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food and drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

10 SATURDAY

★**New Year Birding: Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Kelsey Dehring leads a morning bird walk along the charming River Raisin. All levels of birders welcome. Bring your own binoculars. *8–10 a.m., Leonard Preserve, dead end of Union St. north off W. Main, Manchester. Free. Preregistration required (capacity limited to 15) at* washtenaw.org/registerparks *(#821009). Email dehringk@washtenaw.org with questions.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Jan. 10 & 11.* About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. Youths age 17 & under must be accompanied by an adult. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, bldg. A, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $5 (members, $3; kids age 12 & under, free). (517) 546–4710.*

★**"BIPOC Bird Walk": Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance.** An opportunity for people from BIPOC communities and their allies to look for birds around the B2B Trail between Gallup Park and the Arb. Binoculars provided. *9:30–11:30 a.m., Gallup Park, meet at the small playground by the car bridge. Free. washtenawbna.org.*

★**"Take a Hike!": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation/Ann Arbor District Library/ Shades of the Outdoors.** All age 5 and up invited to learn how to stay safe in the winter outdoors, then take a hike through Mary Beth Doyle Park together. Dress for the weather. *1–3 p.m., Malletts Creek Library, program rm. Free. tinyurl.com/aadl-1-25walk.*

U-M Men's Gymnastics vs. Greenville and Simpson. The U-M men's gymnastics team, a perennial national power that won the NCAA championships in 2025, opens its season with a meet vs. these 2 Midwestern Division III colleges. This month also features a home meet against **Oklahoma** (Jan. 24, 2 p.m.). *2 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Tickets (price TBA) in advance at mgoblue.com/tickets and (if available) at the gate. (734) 764–0247.*

★**U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Saturday Sampler.** *Jan. 10, 17, & 24.* Docent-led tour exploring **"Death and Ritual in Ancient Egypt"** (Jan. 10), how the museum acquired its collection in **"Where Did All This Stuff Come From?"** (Jan. 17), and **"Goddesses of the Kelsey"** (Jan. 24). *2–3 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

"Dimanche": Chaliwaté and Focus Companies (University Musical Society). See 7 Wednesday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

★**Luminary Workshop: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to create a glowing lantern decoration out of wire, tissue paper, decoupage glue, and fairy lights. Wear clothes that can get messy. *3–6 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Gouache Painting: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults & teens to paint a cozy winter scene using thick, water-based gouache paint. Led by local visual artist Janet Nelson. *3–4:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Copper Wire Jewelry": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to make a wire-wrapped bracelet using copper wire. Supplies provided. Led by local crafter Beth Battey. This craft will take the entire time to complete. *4–7 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Comedy Mystery Dinner Show: The Dinner Detective Ann Arbor. *Jan. 10 & 17.* Dinner served while actors masquerading as fellow diners enact a comical murder mystery in which audience members may find themselves prime suspects. *6:30–9 p.m., Ann Arbor Marriott, 1275 S. Huron St., Ypsi. $70 includes gratuity. Preregistration required at thedinnerdetective.com. (866) 496–0535.*

"Summer Camp in January": Cluster Museum. All invited for an evening of arts and crafts, writing letters home, summer camp songs, and ritual. Led by members of the Stubborn Joy Society, a local collective committed to joy as an act of survival. *7–9 p.m., Cluster, 307 N. Main. $3–$10 suggested donation. clustermuseum.org/events.*

"Broadway in Ann Arbor: Songs for Support": Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County Fundraiser. U-M School of Music, Theatre, and Dance students perform Broadway show tunes, followed by a dessert reception. *7 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $75 (students, $15; livestream, $50). preregister at jfsannarbor.org/songs-for-support.html. (734) 769–0209, jfsannarbor.org.*

Nutshell: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704. Traditional Celtic music infused with influences from various other musical traditions by this local ensemble known for its rich and varied instrumental textures and stirring solo and harmony vocals. *7–9 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Sliding scale tickets $10–$20 at the door only. Livestream available ($10 in advance only at interfaithspirit.org/cafe-704-coffeehouse). (734) 657–5384, cafe704@gmail.com.*

★**Club Cole: Westminster Presbyterian Church New Year's Celebration.** This local duo of singer and pianist Shawn McDonald & singer and drummer Carla Margolis perform jazz, cabaret, and dance music. *7 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free.*

Caitlin Peluffo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Michael Hamilton calls to music by Pimento Mori and the Saline Fiddlers. Bring clean-soled, nonslip flat shoes. Beginners' intro at 7 p.m. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. $10 suggested donation (pay what you can). mbean@emich.edu.*

King-Lyman-Cheng Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. This U-M music faculty chamber ensemble performs trios from 3 centuries, including Mozart's charming 1786 "Kegelstatt" Trio in E-flat, Robert Planel's jaunty 1931 Andante et Scherzo, André Previn's 1996 Trio for Piano, Oboe and Bassoon, and Miguel del Aguila's 2000 Tango Trio for Oboe, Bassoon, and Piano. Trio members are oboist Nancy Ambrose King, bassoonist Jeffrey Lyman, and pianist Amy I-Lin Cheng. *7:30–9:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Livestream also available. Tickets $30–$40 (students, $20–$30) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.*

"Who Can Say?": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. *Jan. 10 & 24.* Game show–style performance by experienced improvisers responding to prompts and challenges. *7:30–*

★ **Denotes a free event**

8:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $12 at the door. $20 ($23 at door) includes the 8:30 p.m. Saturday Night Improv show (see 3 Sat. listing). hello@heardotsay.com.

"The Humans": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Blush Drag Show": Bløm Mead + Cider. Drag show hosted by Blonski and Portia Lynn, with performers TBA. Age 18 and up. *8:30–10:30 p.m. Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. $25 in advance at drinkblom.com/events and (if available) at the door. (734) 548–9729.*

Cobalt Blues: Hoover Street Studio. Blues dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner or experience needed. Lesson at 8:30 p.m., followed by social dancing. *9–11:30 p.m., Hoover St. Studio, 323 E. Hoover Ave. $10 at the door. cobaltbluesdance@gmail.com, facebook.com/cobaltbluesdance.*

11 SUNDAY

"Steep: Flavored and Scented Teas": Zingerman's Deli. Zingerman's Deli tea specialist Jackson Konwinski leads a guided tasting of 6 flavored teas. *9:30–11 a.m., Zingerman's Deli, 422 Detroit St. $30. Preregistration required at zingermansdeli.com/events. (734) 663–3354.*

Ypsi Flea Market. Show and sale of vintage items ranging from the early 1930s to the 1990s, featuring clothing, jewelry, furniture, records and more. Concessions. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Pl., Ypsi. Free admission & parking. ypsifleaswap@gmail.com, facebook.com/ypsifleaswap.*

"Monster Ann Arbor Record & CD Collector's Show": Rerun Records. Popular fair with more than 50 dealers selling rare and collectible used records and CDs, as well as hard-to-find new releases. Food and beverages for sale. Patrons may bring in a few records to sell. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $3 (kids age 10 & under, free); $15 early bird admission starting at 8 a.m. To reserve a dealer table, contact Rod at rerun45@rocketmail.com or (734) 604–2540. facebook.com/annarborrecordshow.*

★**"Wonder Walks: Comfort & Care": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** *Jan. 11 & 21.* One-hour to 90-minute nature walks led by Matthaei naturalists focused on the plants that provide us with the comforts of spices, citrus, figs, olives, tea, and herbs. Part of Matthaei's "Eat!" exhibit. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. Dress for the weather. *1–2 p.m. (Sun.) & 5:30–6:30 p.m. (Wed.). Arrival 10 minutes early recommended. Matthaei lobby, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. (734) 647–7600, mbgna.umich.edu/events.*

★**Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, an early American form of communal hymn singing. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *1–4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free. Info: email cawolfe@umich.edu or call (734) 478–3394 or (734) 995–2519.*

★**Sunday Drop-In Tour: U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** *Jan. 11, 28, & 25.* Docent-led tours exploring ancient superstitions in **"Dangers Lurking Around Every Corner"** (Jan. 11), **"Highlights of the Kelsey Museum"** (Jan. 18), and everyday life in ancient Egypt in **"Walk With an Egyptian: A Journey Through Time"** (Jan. 25). *2–3 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★**"Bookbinding for Beginners": Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults & teens to learn bookbinding techniques and make a handmade book. *2–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Second Chance Crafts": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to make a variety of crafts from leftover supplies. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Introduction to Triathlon": Ann Arbor District Library.** Ann Arbor Triathlon Club members discuss various local triathlons and how to prepare for a race. *2–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"The Humans": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Frozen": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Dimanche": Chaliwaté and Focus Companies (University Musical Society). See 7 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**Open Mic Night: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** All acoustic musicians, storytellers, poets, and spoken word artists invited. Sign-up starts at 5:30 p.m. Bring your own nonalcoholic beverages. Tea, coffee, and water available. *6–9 p.m., Jewel Heart, 1129 Oak Valley. Free. jonas@jewelheart.org, jewelheart.org.*

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Every Sun., except Jan. 4.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including foxtrots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 6 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. $5 ($10 includes lessons). (734) 763–6984.*

12 MONDAY

★**"Button Lab": Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults & kids age 12 & up to make buttons using AADL 1.25-inch or 2.25-inch button makers. Participants may bring or draw their own pictures, or use images from AADL collection of old magazines. *5–6 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Emerging Writers Workshop: Developing Your Story Idea": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local editor Alex Kourvo and young adult novelist Bethany Neal discuss how to expand a story idea into a full novel by adding a hook, compelling characters, and high stakes. Also, Kourvo and Neal host an open house for writers to connect with one another and/or work on their projects at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 26. *6:30–7:45 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Giving Up Is Unforgivable: A Manual for Keeping a Democracy": Literati Bookstore Grassroots Book Club. All invited to join a discussion, led by Literati manager Clarisse Jorah, of Joyce Vance's 2025 guide to preserving democracy through civic engagement. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Tickets $5 (can be redeemed for store credit) in advance only at literatibookstore.com. (734) 585–5567.*

★**"Pacific Materialities: Making the Early Modern": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild.** Talk via Zoom on a big screen by historian and fiber artist Stephanie Wong about the textiles (pineapple & banana fibers, wool, and cotton) of the early modern Spanish Pacific, a region around the Philippines defined by a transoceanic trade route between Asia and the Americas. *6:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 2nd fl. gathering rm. (elevator access), 1501 W. Liberty. Free. annarborfiberarts.org.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** Beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited to play Renaissance and other early music, directed by Janet Cannon. Bring your own music stand. *7–9 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church basement music rm. (enter by the back door), 1501 W. Liberty. First meeting free (annual dues $95). a2recordersociety.org.*

★**"Midnight on the Potomac: The Last Year of the Civil War, the Lincoln Assassination, and the Rebirth of America": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table.** Talk by author Scott Ellsworth. *7 p.m., Trinity Health Administrative Bldg., exhibition rm, 1st fl., 5305 Elliott Dr. Free. aacwrt.org.*

★**"Cello + Piano. Classical + Jazz.": U-M Music School.** Detroit Symphony Orchestra cellist **Jeremy Crosmer** and Juilliard-

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THINGS TO DO

ADVENTURES AT THE LIBRARY

Punk Embroidery | January 3
Learn three simple stitches and create a patch

Emerging Writers Workshop | January 12
Develop your story idea into a novel

MOTHABOARD in Concert | January 15
An avant-garde sonic collaboration not to be missed

A Hygge Evening | January 16
Puzzles, coloring, and slow Scandinavian TV at the Library

Winter Root Vegetable Adventure | January 28
Taste and learn about roasted and raw root vegetables

Times, locations, and more events at

AADL.ORG/EVENTS

trained pianist **Joel Ayau** perform a program highlighted by the premiere of U-M grad Teagan Faran's *Flaschblume,* an irreverent jazzy mash-up of Beethoven's 3rd Cello Sonata, along with Nicholas Canellakis's arrangement of Gershwin's *Three Preludes,* and jazz-influenced classical works by Francis Poulenc. *7:30 p.m., Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits, North Campus. Free. (734) 764–0583.*

★**Scandinavian Music Jam.** *Jan. 12 & 26.* Bruce Sagan leads an acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience necessary. *7:30–9:30 p.m., in person or virtual TBA. For location, email bsagan@msu.edu. Free.*

13 TUESDAY

★**Sunrise Nature Hike: Nature Learning Community.** Naturalist Elle Bogle leads a hike through the winter stillness to listen to birds, breathe in the scents of the forest, and hunt for animal tracks. Proper winter gear and binoculars recommended. *9:30–11 a.m., Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. Preregistration required at naturelearningcommunity.org. ellebogle@yahoo.com.*

★**"Introductory Woodcarving: Skill Building with Fish": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 13 & 20 (different times).* Adults & teens invited to learn woodcarving basics, then carve a small fish to take home. *5:30–7:30 p.m. (Jan. 13) & 1–3 p.m. (Jan. 20), AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Collage and Chill": Dzanc House.** *Jan. 13 & 27.* All invited to make collages. Supplies provided, but bring your own if you like. *6–8 p.m., Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. Free; donations accepted. dzanchouse.org.*

"Craft & Drink with SCRAP Creative Reuse": Bløm Meadworks. All invited to work on their own creation, with materials provided. Supplies this month include vision board–making materials. *6–8 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. $10–$15 (pay what you can), in advance at drinkblom.com/events or at the door. (734) 548–9729.*

★**Shape Note Singing: Ypsi Shape Note Group.** *Jan. 13 & 27.* All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp singing, an early American form of hymn singing that uses musical notation with distinct shapes to make learning easier. Loaner songbooks available. No experience required. *7–9 p.m., RAC, Off Center bldg., 76 N. Huron St., Ypsi. Free. riversidearts.org/shape-note-singing-ypsilanti.*

14 WEDNESDAY

★**"Artist Trading Cards": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to decorate trading cards to take home or swap with other participants. *1–2 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Kaloki Nyamai: U-M Stamps School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series.** This renowned Nairobi-based artist discusses his multidisciplinary practice making immersive works that merge painting, sculpture, and installation. His large-scale work "Tusukane" appears in the UMMA Gallery of African Art through spring of 2026. Also, an exhibit of his work, "Kaloki Nyamai: Tuukelile Vaa" (see Galleries) runs Jan. 14–Feb. 27 at the Institute for the Humanities. The talk is followed by a reception at the Institute (6:30–8 p.m., 202 S. Thayer). *5:30–6:30 p.m., UMMA Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. (734) 936–0671, stamps.umich.edu/events/kaloki-nyamai.*

"Pro- and Anti-Vax: Facts, Fallacies, Fear, and Fraud": Ann Arbor City Club Dine & Discover. Talk by U-M biology professor emeritus Robert Bender. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. *6 p.m., City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $15 lecture only; with dinner, $39 (members, $34). Preregistration required. (734) 662–3279, stacy@annarborcityclub.org, annarborcityclub.org.*

★**"Refined Botanical Fragrances by Providence Perfume": Ann Arbor District Library Smell & Tell.** Local writer and fragrance expert Michelle Krell Kydd, creator of the award-winning flavor and fragrance blog Glass Petal Smoke, leads a guided smelling of 6 different fragrances from this all-natural perfume company. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Community Sing with Matt Watroba": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Local singer-songwriter and WKAR-FM (MSU) radio folk show host Watroba leads a sing-along of songs from the various branches of American folk music. No experience necessary. *7–8:30 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free. (734) 327–0270, interfaithspirit.org.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday. 7:15 p.m.

★**"Jury Duty": Pittsfield Union Grange.** Washtenaw County Clerk Larry Kestenbaum discusses the methods used, both now and in the past, to fill jury pools. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck; bring a dish to pass. *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. (734) 274–0773.*

"Wednesday Night Swing": Swing Ann Arbor. *Jan. 14, 21 & 28.* Lindy Hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Wear comfortable low-grip shoes. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a free beginner lesson. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Rm. $5 (free for members) at the door. swingannarbor.com/calendar.*

"Turtle Cat Comedy": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Sets by stand-up comics JeCorey Hawkins, Brian Cox, Emily Clark, and Alfons Mueller. Hosted by Finn St. John. *9–10 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

15 THURSDAY

★**"Third Thursdays at the Library": U-M Library.** Monthly open house featuring rotating highlights from the library's Special Collections Research Center, maps from the Clark Library, and items from other collections. Curators on hand to answer questions. *6th fl.:* **"Book Cloth: From Textile Bindings to Fashionable Fabric Samples."** Display of textiles, from those covering Ottoman Turkish manuscripts, to fabric samples in early 20th-century fashion magazines, and more. *4th fl.:* **"Sword and Scroll: Three Centuries of Chinese Martial Arts Fiction."** Original editions, translations, and other materials related to martial arts in Chinese literature. *2nd fl.:* **"Map Highlights and New Acquisitions."** Display of the Clark Library's recent acquisitions, including a 17th-century Dutch atlas, a Manga map of the world, and maps used to instruct 19th-century schoolgirls. *1st fl.:* **"Spilling the Beans and Brewing Excitement: Coffee and Tea Around the World."** Materials from various countries related to the cultivation and consumption of coffee and tea. *4–6 p.m., Hatcher Library, enter from the Diag. Free. (734) 936–2309.*

★**"Beginner Crochet": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to learn how to hold a crochet hook, make a slip knot, how to make chain and single crochet stitches, and how to crochet in the round. *5–7 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"The Shadow of Perseus": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of Claire Heywood's 2023 female-centered reinterpretation of the Perseus myth. Bring your own copy of the book. Light refreshments. *6–7 p.m., Kelsey Museum, rm. 125, 434 S. State. Preregistration required; see bit.ly/kelseybookclubdjan26. $20 (students, $10). (734) 764–9304.*

"Bumpin Balsamics!": Zingerman's Delicatessen. Zingerman's staff lead a tasting

★ *Denotes a free event*

of rare balsamic vinegars, accompanied by bread and cheese. *6:30–7:30 p.m., Zingerman's Deli, 422 Detroit St. $45 in advance at zingermansdeli.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 663–3400.*

★**"Martha Graham Dance Company 100 Years": Literati Bookstore.** Photographers **Ken Browar** and **Deborah Ory** are joined by retired U-M dance professor Peter Sparling to discuss their award-winning new book, a collection of photos celebrating this acclaimed NYC dance company, performing in Ann Arbor Jan. 16–18 (see listings). *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. (734) 585–5567.*

★**"Michigan's Con-Con 11: Women and State Constitution-Making in 1961": Schuler Books.** Michigan historian **Lynn Liberato** discusses her new book about the 11 female delegates to the 1961–1962 Michigan Constitutional Convention. *6:30 p.m., Schuler Books, Westgate shopping center. Free; preregistration requested at schulerbooks.com/events-ann-arbor. (734) 662–0600.*

★**"Discovery of a New Nation: Native Nations and the Beginning of the United States: 1100–1860": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Detroit-based Native American historian Heather Bruegl. *6:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Mothaboard": Ann Arbor District Library.** Experimental electronic music by this duo of Chicago avant-garde jazz pianist **Angel Bat Dawid** and Detroit multidisciplinary artist **Sophiyah E.,** who describe their music as a synthesis of "improvisation, diasporic musical traditions, and therapeutic frequencies to foster collective consciousness and socio-cultural reflection." *6:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"12 Angry Jurors": Greenhills Upper School Play.** *Jan. 15–17.* Gary Lehman directs Greenhills High School students in a Sherman L. Sergel's adaptation of Reginald Rose's 1954 teleplay *12 Angry Men.* The drama, set in a 1957 jury room, explores the grave responsibility of 12 ordinary people as they decide a stranger's fate. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. (734) 769–4010, greenhillsschool.org.*

Ahmed Bharoocha: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 15–17.* Playfully absurd California-born "half Irish Catholic, half Pakistani-Indian-Burmese Muslim" comic with a goofy, high-energy style punctuated with cutting social commentary. Opening act TBA. *7:15 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 (Thurs., $15) at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

16 FRIDAY

★**"Healing the Womb: Uterine Amulets in the Roman World": U-M Library.** U-M history professor Anna Bonnell Freidin discusses how these hematite and red jasper amulets were used by Romans during pregnancy and childbirth. *3–4 p.m., Hatcher Library, 1st fl. gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. (734) 936–2309.*

★**"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works.** All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, whatever. Maker Works members and staff on hand help with repairs. Handy people invited to assist. Repairs not guaranteed. Also, **toy adaptations** to make off-the-shelf toys more accessible for people with disabilities. *4–6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. Free. Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/a2fix-it-fri. (734) 222–4911.*

★**"A Hygge Evening at the Library": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 16 & 30.* All invited to join local crafter Beth Battey to crochet, knit, and do jigsaw puzzles, with a virtual fireplace and mellow music, in this celebration of "hygge," a Danish term for cozy contentment. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Tributaries: Essays & Verses Flowing From & Celebrating Favorite Poems": Literati Bookstore.** Minnesota-based poet **Kurt Luchs,** a Kalamazoo native, discusses his new collection of 20 essays on poems by Wallace Stevens, Mary Oliver, Lewis Carroll, and others. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. (734) 585–5567.*

★**"Other Worlds: A Sci-fi/Fantasy Book Club": Booksweet Bookshop.** All invited to discuss ***The Bone Season,*** Samantha Shannon's 2013 fantasy about a young clairvoyant woman fighting against a totalitarian regime. *7–8 p.m., Booksweet, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

★**"Masters & Teachers Discussion Group": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore.** Crazy Wisdom staff member Jenna Hoyer selects a book from a revered teacher (e.g., Rumi, Ram Dass, Pema Chödrön) to read aloud from and discuss. Participants are invited to bring in favorite passages to share. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main, upstairs. Free. crazywisdom.net.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** U-M creative writing grad students Renée Flory & Emily Tian read their poetry and prose. *7–8 p.m., UMMA Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. For livestream see tinyurl.com/websters25-26, for password & other questions contact websterseries@umich.edu. Free. (734) 764–6330.*

★**"12 Angry Jurors": Greenhills Upper School Play.** See 15 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Ahmed Bharoocha: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

★**University Lowbrow Astronomers Monthly Meeting.** U-M physics professor Fred Adams discusses how the planet Jupiter used to be much larger than it is today. *7:30 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. Free. (734) 975–3248.*

★**"Railroad Photographers": Ann Arbor Train and Trolley Watchers.** Slide and video presentations by club members. *7:30 p.m., Traver Lakes Clubhouse, 2500 Lancashire Dr. (off Traver Blvd.). Free. (734) 761–3814, camcharnet@aol.com.*

Martha Graham Dance Company: University Musical Society. *Jan. 16–18.*

MELISSA SHERWOOD

The great Martha Graham Dance Company appears Jan. 16–18 at the Power Center with 3 unique programs focusing on Graham classics.

Founded in 1926 and arguably the world's most renowned modern dance company, this troupe celebrates its 100th anniversary with 3 unique programs focusing on Graham classics, along with a few new works by contemporary choreographers. Each program uses sets by the Japanese American sculptor Isamu Noguchi, who partnered with Graham on over 20 works. Tonight: 3 works by Graham include her 1947 *Night Journey*, which explores the myth of Oedipus from the perspective of his mother and wife Jocasta, set to music by William Schuman; *Immediate Tragedy,* to music by Christopher Rountree; and *Panorama,* to music by Norman Lloyd. Also, a special commission TBA in honor of the company's anniversary. On Jan. 15 (see listing), the authors of a new book of photography about the company sign books at Literati. From Jan. 16–Feb. 8 (see listing, Galleries), an exhibit of paintings inspired by *Night Journey* appears in the Power Center lobby. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) and 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $46–$97 in advance ($15–$20, students) at ums.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. (734) 764–2538.*

"The Humans": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Comedy Theme Park": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Monthly comedy show featuring a rotating theme TBA. *9:30–10:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

17 SATURDAY

★**Annual Winter Stonefly Search: Huron River Watershed Council.** All invited to join one of 2 sessions that are part of a watershed-wide hunt, with experienced researchers, for these elusive river insects, which are active only in winter when fish are sluggish. Because they are sensitive to changes in water quality, their health reflects the health of the river. Dress for the weather. Kids must be with an adult. *9 a.m.–2 p.m. & 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m., meet at HRWC, 117 N. First St., ste. 100. Free, preregistration required at hrwc.org/volunteer/stonefly. (734) 769–5123, jfrenzel@hrwc.org.*

★**Dexter Ice Fest: Dexter Chamber of Commerce.** Professional ice carvers use chainsaws and other tools to make ice sculptures. Also, a cookie-making station, ice skating demos, and a cocoa crawl, with area businesses offering free samples as long as they last. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Main St. & Monument Park, Downtown Dexter. Free. dexterchamber.org.*

"Pop-Up Makerspace: Mini Marble Mazes": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Jan. 17 & 18* All invited to drop in and create a marble maze. *10 a.m.–noon & 2–4 p.m., AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $16 museum admission (babies under 2, free). (734) 995–9439, discoverscienceandnature.org/aahom.*

★**"The Most Powerful Tech Event in the World": MacTechnics.** In-person gathering to share details about some of the new tech announced at the Consumer Electronics Show Jan. 6–9 in Las Vegas. *11 a.m., NEW Center, 1100 N. Main St. Also via livestream. For door code or URL, email contact@mactechnics.org. Free. mactechnics.org.*

★**"Strategies for Surviving Today's Political Climate": U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program African American Services Council Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.** Panel discussion. Refreshments. *1–3:30 p.m., Bethel AME Church, 900 John A. Woods Dr. Free. Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/umturner2026mlk. (734) 998-9354, office@bethelameannarbor.org.*

★**"Winter Tree Identification Walk": Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance.** All invited to join club members Ed Trager and Matthew Spoor on a hike to learn to ID common Michigan trees. Wear appropriate footwear and dress for the weather. *2–4 p.m., Oakwoods Nature Area, 6185 Dunwoodie Rd. Free. washtenawbna.org.*

"This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing": Spinning Dot Theatre. *Jan. 17 & 18.* This company of local actors performs a family-friendly production of award-winning Australian playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer's fairytale-like 2011 play that combines word, music, and movement to tell the heartfelt story of adventurous triplet girls. *2 p.m., Hear.Say Brewing + Theater, 2350 W. Liberty. Tickets $10 (youth, $5) in advance at heardotsay.com/events and at the door. hello@spinningdot.com.*

★**Out Loud Chorus: Ann Arbor District Library.** Saleel Menon directs this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people

and their friends in a family-friendly program of songs TBA. *3–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327-4200.*

Aristo Sham: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Recital. This Juilliard-trained pianist, who in June became the first Hong Konger to win the prestigious Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, makes his Ann Arbor debut performing Brahms' *Schübler Chorales* (or 6 Organ Chorale Preludes), based on Lutheran hymns; Bach's deeply emotional Chaconne from *Partita* No. 2 in D minor; and variations on Chopin's poignant Prelude in C minor, all arranged by Ferruccio Busoni. Also, the program includes six selections from Brahms' expressive *Klavierstücke,* and Brahms' dramatic, symphonically inspired Piano Sonata No. 1 in C major. A former child piano prodigy, Sham's playing "combines clarity, elegance, and abundant technique," according to the *New York Times. 3 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $37–$48 (students, $18–$23) in advance at a2so.com & the A2SO office (35 Research Dr., ste. 100), and (if available) at the door. (734) 994–4801.*

"Treasures of the Late Period": Fischer Duo (Kerrytown Concert House). This husband-and-wife duo of cellist **Norman Fischer** and pianist **Jeanne Kierman Fisher** perform a program of composers' later works, including Beethoven's deep, experimental Cello Sonata No. 5 in D Major, along with George Rochberg's moving 1994 Sonata-Aria, and local composer William Bolcom's 2020 Cello Sonata no. 2, which blends modernism and jazz with classical structure and lyricism. The Fischers have been playing together for over 50 years and have recorded 18 albums together, ranging from Brahms to Liszt to modern American composers. Sparkling wine and light hors d'oeuvres follow. *4–6 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Livestream also available. Tickets $55–$90 (students, $40–$70) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 769–2999.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Local drummer & drum teacher Lori Fithian leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Free. (734) 426–7818.*

"Art & Animals: Cookie Decorating": The Creature Conservancy. Conservancy staffers show off and discuss Jill, a muntjac deer. Followed by a hands-on cookie decorating led by local artist Bethany Bruni using images of Jill. Supplies provided, and you can take the cookies home. BYO snacks and nonalcoholic drinks. Adults only. *7–10 p.m., CC, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Tickets $40 each. Preregistration required at thecreatureconservancy.org.*

"FutureStars 2026": Pioneer High School Theatre Guild. One-night-only version of this very popular vocal competition showcasing the talents of AAPS students, with judges and audience response determining the winners. Also, performances by the **Rising Stars** freshman & sophomore choir. *7 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Tickets $20 (students & seniors, $15) in advance at ptguild.org & at the door. (734) 994–2191.*

"Arab Xpressions 2026": U-M Arab Student Association. This annual variety showcase features *dabke,* a traditional Middle Eastern dance performed by the student troupe Arabesque, along with student poetry, singing, and musical performances. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $21 in advance at marquee-arts.org/live-events and at the door.*

★**"12 Angry Jurors": Greenhills Upper School Play.** See 15 Thursday. 7 p.m.

Ahmed Bharoocha: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

Improv with Fustercluck & Friends: Hear. Say Brewing + Theater. Performance by an ensemble of 4 improvisers with over a century of combined experience. *7:30–8:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $10 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $12 (if available) at the door. $20 ($23 at door) includes the 8:30 Saturday Night Improv show (see 3 Sat. listing). hello@heardotsay.com.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Grange. Maeve Devlin calls to music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, and Brad Battey. Bring clean shoes for dancing. Beginners' intro at 7 p.m. *7:30–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Union Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10–$15 suggested donation (pay what you can). (734) 274–0773.*

"A Red, Red Rose: Celebrating Robert Burns": Les Délices (Academy of Early Music). This adventurous Cleveland-based early-music ensemble celebrates Scottish bard Robert Burns with a new program featuring tenor **James Reese,** a noted interpreter of Baroque music, performing eighteenth-century ballads composed and collected by Burns, including such beloved tunes as "A Red, Red Rose" and "Comin' Thro' the Rye." Les Délices (The Delights) has been dubbed "an early music group with an avant-garde appetite" by the *New York Times.* Founded in 2009 by baroque oboist Debra Nagy, the ensemble includes baroque violinist Shelby Yamin, baroque cellist Rebecca Landell, and lutist Adam Cockerham. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a talk. *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. $35 (seniors, $30; students, $10) in advance at academyofearlymusic.org/events/lyracle & (if available) at the door. $5 increase after Jan. 10. (734) 228–4338.*

Martha Graham Dance Company: University Musical Society. See 16 Friday. Tonight: Graham's 1936 comment on the menace of fascism, *Chronicle,* set to music by Wallingford Riegger, and her study of the dark passion, *Cave of the Heart,* set to Samuel Barber's *Medea* suite. Also, contemporary choreographer Hofesh Shechter's 2022 *Cave,* set to music by musical duo Âme and Shechter. 7:30 p.m.

"The Humans": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"Comedy Night": Bløm Mead + Cider. Stand-up comedy by Jacob Barr and other local comics. Usually sells out. *7:30–9 p.m. Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. $10 (includes one 12 oz. pour of mead, cider, or nonalcoholic beverage) in advance at drinkblom.com/events and (if available) at the door. (734) 548–9729.*

Annual Collage Concert: U-M Music School. U-M music students perform an hour of nonstop music in a wide range of contrasting styles, showcasing their work from the previous semester's concerts. Classical, jazz, big band, vocal, and pop ensembles and soloists segue rapidly from one idiom to the next. One of the music school's most popular events. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $23–$40 (students with ID, $16), in advance at tickets.smtd.umich.edu and (if available) at the door. (734) 764–2538.*

Heywood Banks: The Ark. Heywood Banks is the stage name of Howell native Stuart Mitchell, an animated veteran comedian known for his silly musical spoofs, goofy prop humor, and sight gags. Since adopting the nerdy, quietly psychotic Banks persona in the mid-80s, he rose from a regional favorite to a national star, and his annual shows at the Ark usually sell out in advance. *8 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $40 in advance at the theark.org, and $35 (if available) at the door. (734) 761–1451.*

18 SUNDAY

★**"From Bean to Bar: The Story of Chocolate": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** As part of Matthaei's "Eat!" exhibit, Mindo chocolate makers show how chocolate is grown, made, and enjoyed. Followed by a tasting. *11 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Matthaei lobby, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. Preregistration required at mbgna.umich.edu/events. Space is limited. (734) 647–7600.*

★**"Lead Typesetting for Letterpress Printing": Ann Arbor District Library.** The Aquarius House print studio owner Liz Isakson-Dado discusses the library's extensive lead type collection, how to set a proper lockup, and how to create a pressed print of a

MICHIGAN PSYCHEDELIC CENTER
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The History of Psychedelics & Neuroscience
January 15, 4 p.m.

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WALLACE HOUSE PRESENTS
AN MLK SYMPOSIUM EVENT WITH
CAITLIN DICKERSON
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DEPORTATION NATION
Chronicling Our Current Chapter in a Long History of Exclusion
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20 | 4:30 PM
RACKHAM AMPHITHEATRE
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WALLACE HOUSE CENTER FOR JOURNALISTS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

CROSWELL
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THE ALL-AREA HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL
SINGIN' IN THE RAIN
JANUARY 31 - FEBRUARY 8
Every unforgettable song from the beloved film is preserved in this stage adaptation of what has been called "the greatest movie musical of all time." The tunes are catchy, the dance is spectacular – and yes, of course, we'll be making it rain!
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★ *Denotes a free event*

haiku. This program will take the whole time to complete. Adults only. *Noon–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Beaded Mothman Keychain": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & kids grade 5 & up invited to use pony beads to make a moth-shaped keychain. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Loving Kindness Crafters": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** All invited to bring crafts to work on, socialize, and share knowledge. *1:30–2:30 p.m., Jewel Heart, 1129 Oak Valley. Free. programs@jewelheart.org, jewelheart.org.*

★**"Growing Orchids: The Basics": Ann Arbor Orchid Society Monthly Meeting.** Society members discuss how to get started growing orchids. Also, a silent auction, an orchid raffle table, and members show-and-tell. Begins with a brief business meeting. *2–4 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. aaorchidsociety@gmail.com.*

★**Michigame Design Lab Game Playtesting: Bløm Mead + Cider.** All invited to try out new board and card games from local designers and provide feedback. *2–6 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food & drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729, drinkblom.com/events.*

"The Planets": Ann Arbor Concert Band. David Leach leads this local volunteer ensemble in all 7 movements of Gustav Holst's majestic astrology-inspired *The Planets,* accompanied by a slide presentation. Composed between 1914 and 1917, each movement is based on the astrological personality of a planet. Because the work is inspired by a fascination with astrology, not astronomy, the Earth is not included and Holst showed no interest in adding Pluto after its discovery. Holst described the work as "a series of mood pictures," ranging from the pugnacious "Mars, the Bringer of War" to the lighthearted "Jupiter, the Bringer of Jollity." *2 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10; kids age 13 & under, free) in advance at marquee-arts.org/calendar and at the door. (734) 668–8397, aaband.org.*

Martha Graham Dance Company: University Musical Society. See 16 Friday. Today: Graham's classic *Appalachian Spring*, set to the serene pastoral suite she commissioned from Aaron Copland; her 1930 meditation on grief, *Lamentation,* to music by Zoltán Kodály; and her *Panorama,* set to music by Norman Lloyd. Also, a special commission TBA in honor of the company's anniversary. 2 p.m.

"The Humans": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 9 Friday. 2 p.m.

"This Girl Laughs, This Girl Cries, This Girl Does Nothing": Spinning Dot Theatre. See 17 Saturday. 2 p.m.

★**"Expat Cookbooks: Expressions of Identity and Community While Living Abroad": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor.** Ann Arbor book collector Dan Freidus discusses items from his collection of over 1,500 expatriate cookbooks, which provide snapshots of the lives of people living outside their home country at oilfields, church missions, military bases, Peace Corps outposts, and elsewhere. Q&A. *4–5:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Also via YouTube; get URL at culinaryhistoriansannarbor.org or aadl.org/events. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Long Form Improv Jam": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. All improvisers with some experience are invited to be randomly assigned to a team; each group performs a 10–15 minute set. Spectators welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. Pay what you can at heardotsay.com/events and at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

19 MONDAY
(MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY)

★**"Unbowed and Unbroken: The Enduring Struggle for Justice": 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Symposium: U-M Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives.** NAACP president **Derrick Johnson** and actress and activist **Donzaleigh Abernathy,** the daughter of civil rights leader Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, discuss contemporary social and racial justice activism and the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. *10 a.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. (734) 936–1055. Livestream available at oami.umich.edu/mlk-symposium.*

COURTESY OF THE U-M COMMUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The U-M Community Scholars Program's 20th annual MLK Day Circle of Unity features performances, readings, singing, dance, and spoken word on Jan. 19.

★**"MLK Day Drop-in": Ann Arbor Art Center (A2AC).** All invited to design and create a quilt square that reflects what they love and value about community. Individual squares will be stitched together to form a collective quilt. Supplies provided, while they last. Open to all ages and skill levels; kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., A2AC, 117 W. Liberty. Free. annarborartcenter.org.*

★**"Scientist Spotlight: MLK Jr. Day": U-M Museum of Natural History.** A chance for adults and kids age 10 & up to engage in interactive science activities with U-M scientists. *Noon–3 p.m., U-M MNH, 1105 North University. Free. (734) 764–0478.*

★**"Black History Is for Everyone": U-M Library MLK Committee 2026 Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture:** Writer and activist **Brian Jones,** a former NYC public school teacher, discusses his new book about how the study of Black history challenges our understanding of race, nation, and the stories we tell about who we are. Followed by Q&A. *2 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. (734) 764–5293, oami.umich.edu/mlk-symposium.*

galleries

Ann Arbor Art Center, 115 W. Liberty. *Main Gallery:* ***Skill Share: A2AC Instructor Showcase*** (Jan. 16–Feb. 15). Sculptures, ceramics, works in mixed media, and more by A2AC instructors and staff. Reception: Jan. 16, 6–8 p.m. *Spotlight Gallery:* ***404: Accountability Not Found*** (Jan. 9–Feb. 18). Satirical paintings, cartoons, and works in other media by Ghanaian artist Bright Ackwerh reflect on the frustrations of contemporary African life. Reception: Jan. 16, 6–8 p.m. *Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. & Sun. noon–6 p.m. (734) 994–8004, annarborartcenter.org.*

Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. ***U-M Faculty Women*** (Jan. 5–Feb. 16). Art in a variety of media by these artist professors. Reception: Jan. 8, 4–6 p.m. *Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (734) 662–3279.*

Ann Arbor District Library Downtown, 343 S. Fifth Ave. *Lower level program room:* ***The Art of Zingerman's: A Feast for Your Eyes, Second Course*** (Jan. 6–Feb. 27). Pencil, ink, and paint illustrations by various artists, originals of the images used by Zingerman's for its advertising and packaging. *2nd fl. exhibit space:* ***Taiwan Literature Exhibition: Reading Taiwan*** (Sept. 22–Jan. 9, 2026). Explanatory panels, pages, and illustrations from 20 works of Taiwanese literature translated into English, including fiction, nonfiction, picture books, and graphic novels. ***The American Founding Documents*** (Jan. 16–Mar. 20). An exhibit about 5 seminal U.S. documents: the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, the Bill of Rights, the Northwest Ordinances, and the U.S. Constitution, produced by the Washtenaw County Historical Consortium. *3rd fl. exhibit space:* ***American Institute of Architects Huron Valley Chapter Honor Awards*** (Jan. 12–Feb. 28). Designs and photographs of award-winning architectural projects, all designed within the last 5 years. *Daily, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. (734) 327–4555.*

Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. ***Brian Taylor*** (Jan.–Mar.). Moody mixed-media seascapes and landscapes by this local artist. Reception: Jan. 23, 5–7 p.m. *Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (734) 794–6250, a2gov.org/senior.*

Chris Nordin Studios Gallery, 117 E. Ann. ***Alex Monte-Sano*** (Jan. 9–Mar. 15). Data-driven sculptures in wood that illustrate physical and sociological truths of modern life by local artist Monte-Sano. Reception: Jan. 9, 5–8 p.m. *Thurs. & Fri. noon–4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. except Dec. 25 & Jan. 1. (734) 834–2952, chris@chrisnordinstudios.com, chrisnordinstudios.com.*

Cluster, 307 N. Main. ***The Smoke, the Ghost, the Balm*** (Jan. 30–Feb. 28). Group show by artists whose work investigates forced erasure, disappearance, and memory. Reception: Jan. 30, 6–9 p.m. *Mon.–Sat. noon–6 p.m. clustermuseum.org.*

Crazy Wisdom Gallery, 114 S. Main, upstairs. ***Lauren Kingsley*** (Jan. 3–31). Beautifully lit Michigan landscapes and farmscapes in oil by this local artist. Reception: Jan. 3, 5:30–7 p.m. *Wed. & Thurs. 6:30–9 p.m., Fri. 6:30–9:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. noon–5 p.m. crazywisdom.net.*

Dzanc House, 402 S. Huron St., Ypsi. ***Joy*** (Jan. 9–30). Group show of art in various media on the topic of joy curated by Ypsilanti artist Jen Eastridge, a self-proclaimed "joy activist." Receptions: Jan. 9 & 30, 5–8 p.m. *Check dzanchouse.org for gallery hours.*

U-M Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel. ***The Women of the Kahn Family*** (Jan. 6–20). Documents and photos detailing the lives of the women of this venerable Ann Arbor family whose patriarch, architect Albert Kahn, designed 19 of the buildings on the U-M campus. *Sun. & Mon. noon–6 p.m. & Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. (734) 763–3266.*

U-M Hatcher Graduate Library, 913 South University. *Hatcher Library North, 1st. fl:* ***Materia Magica: Materiality and Ritual in the Greco-Roman World*** (Jan. 9–Apr. 30). A display of artifacts created to call upon various unseen, supernatural forces for aid and protection. *Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (734) 936–2311, pabloalv@umich.edu, lib.umich.edu.*

U-M Institute for the Humanities Gallery, 202 S. Thayer. ***Kaloki Nyamai: Tuukelile Vaa*** (Jan. 14–Feb. 27). Large-scale immersive artwork that merges painting, sculpture, and installation by Nairobi-based artist Nyamai, who gives a Penny Stamps Speaker Series talk about his work on Jan. 14 at UMMA (see Events). *Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m. (734) 936–3518, lsa.umich.edu/humanities.*

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *Vertical Gallery:* ***American Sampler: Activating the Archive*** (Jan. 24–summer 2027). Exhibit that explores interconnected social movements and their visual strategies from the 1950s through the 1970s through works by artists like Romare Bearden, Robert Indiana, Corita Kent, Jacob Lawrence, Nancy Spero, and Félix González-Torres, alongside protest posters, Freedom Rider testimonials, GI resistance material, courtroom records from the Chicago Seven trial, and more. Curated by MacArthur Fellow Julie Ault, who on Jan. 24 discusses the exhibit, and on Jan. 25 leads a tour of it (see Events). *Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. (734) 764–0395, umma.umich.edu/exhibitions.*

U-M Power Center, 121 Fletcher. ***Doom-Eager: Paintings for Martha*** (Jan. 16–Feb. 8). Large-scale paintings inspired by Martha Graham's dance *Night Journey* (a work performed here by the Martha Graham Dance Company on Jan. 16; see Events) by artist/dancer/choreographer **Peter Sparling.** *Viewing 30 minutes prior to any Power Center performance. You do not need a ticket to enter. Performance schedule is at tinyurl.com/power-center-schedule. petespar@umich.edu.*

U-M Stamps Gallery, 201 S. Division. ***2026 Undergraduate Juried Exhibition*** (Jan. 30–Feb. 21). Work in a variety of media by undergraduate Stamps students. Reception: Jan. 30, 6–8 p.m. *Wed., Fri., Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m. & Thurs. 11 a.m.–7 p.m. (734) 615–5137, stamps.umich.edu/stamps-gallery.*

WSG Gallery, 111 E. Ann. ***15 + 15 Show*** (Jan. 2–31). This popular annual exhibit features work by WSG's 15 members, along with the 15 artists they've invited. Reception: Jan. 4, 2–5 p.m. *Wed. & Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Thurs. & Sun. noon–5 p.m., Fri. noon–7 p.m. (734) 929–2621, wsg-art.com.*

★**"Annual Circle of Unity": U-M Michigan Community Scholars Program.** All invited to listen to or join a program of song, dance, and spoken-word performances inspired by Martin Luther King Jr. Also, performances by local singer-songwriter **Joe Reilly** and Detroit singer-guitarist **Julie Beutel.** *3–4 p.m., Regents Plaza, next to the cube. Free. mcsprogram@umich.edu.*

★**"Martin Luther King & Militarism: What Would He Say Today?":** Veterans for Peace chapter members discuss MLK's speeches on militarism made during the Vietnam War. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden": Literati Bookstore Eco Book Club. All invited to join a discussion, led by local poet Alison Swan, of Camille T. Dungy's 2024 account of her 7-year odyssey to diversify her garden in predominantly white Fort Collins (CO), a community that had strict policies about what plants residents could and could not grow. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Tickets $5 (can be redeemed for store credit) in advance only at literatibookstore.com. (734) 585–5567.*

★**"Craft & Chat": Pittsfield Union Grange.** All invited to work on their knitting, crocheting, and other craft projects together. *7–9 p.m., Pittsfield Grange (use back door), 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. (734) 274–0773.*

★**"1981 International Year of Disabled Persons": Ann Arbor Stamp Club (AASC).** Club member Bob Ransom talks about and displays worldwide stamps honoring the International Year of Disabled Persons. Also, a **mini-auction** of U.S. & foreign stamps and covers. Visitors welcome. *7:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. (734) 761–5859, arbor@provide.net, annarborstampclub.org.*

20 TUESDAY

★**"Deportation Nation": U-M Ford School of Public Policy MLK Day Symposium.** Pulitzer Prize– and Peabody Award–winning journalist **Caitlin Dickerson,** staff writer at *The Atlantic,* and U-M Wallace House Center director Lynette Clemetson discuss how the American immigration system works and the complex U.S. history with immigrants, which includes race-based fear directed toward virtually every group of immigrants to the U.S. Audience Q&A. *4:30–6 p.m. Rackham Amphitheatre, 4th fl. Free. Preregistration requested at fordschool.umich.edu/events. Also available via livestream. fspp-events@umich.edu.*

★**Polka Jam Session: American Legion Hall.** All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. *7–9 p.m., American Legion Hall, 44 Wabash St. (south off Main St.), Milan. Free.*

★**Astronomy on Tap.** All invited to this monthly program that includes space-themed trivia and games as well as short presentations by local astronomers. *7 p.m., Grizzly Peak, 120 W. Washington. Free; food and drink for sale. bit.ly/aotannarbor.*

The Moth StorySlam: U-M Michigan Public. Open mic storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization. Ten storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3- to 5-minute story on the theme: **"Thin Ice."** Stories are judged by 3 people recruited from the audience. Winners compete in a semiannual GrandSlam. Seating limited; arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), the Blind Pig, 208 S. First St. Tickets $15 general admission in advance only at themoth.org beginning 3 weeks before event. patricia@themoth.org.*

21 WEDNESDAY

★**"My Life in Film": American Association of University Women.** Talk by producer, director, writer, and actress **Heidi Elizabeth Philipsen-Meissner,** a U-M grad and Ypsi native who has built a career in the international film and TV industry. *12:30 p.m. Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw Ave. Free. (844) 973–6287, annarbor-mi.aauw.net.*

★**"Still Struggling to Cross that Bridge: Connecting the U.S. and African Civil Rights Movements": U-M Donia Human Rights Center Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture.** Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa regional director Hala al-Karib discusses how the quest for liberation and decolonization in Africa parallels the civil rights movement in America. *4–5:30 p.m., 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 615–8482.*

★**"Intuitive Art: Scrap Felt Collage": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to make images using pieces of felt. No experience needed. *6–7 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Heat Press Open Lab: Ann Arbor District Library.** A chance for adults to use the AADL heat press to make a design using provided materials, then transfer it onto a provided tote bag, or bring a T-shirt or other fabric to print on. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Seeds to Community": Washtenaw Bird & Nature Alliance.** Ann Arbor park steward Jonathan Parker presents and solicits feedback on his volunteer initiative to collect and sow native plant seeds in order to restore natural habitats and sustain wildlife. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. washtenawbna.org.*

Bluegrass Jam Circle: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Jan. 21 & 28.* All musicians invited to bring acoustic instruments to play bluegrass-style music. Vocalists welcome. Inclement weather cancels. Please call by 3 p.m. on the day of the jam with any questions. *7–9 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5. (734) 794–6250, a2blugrass.com.*

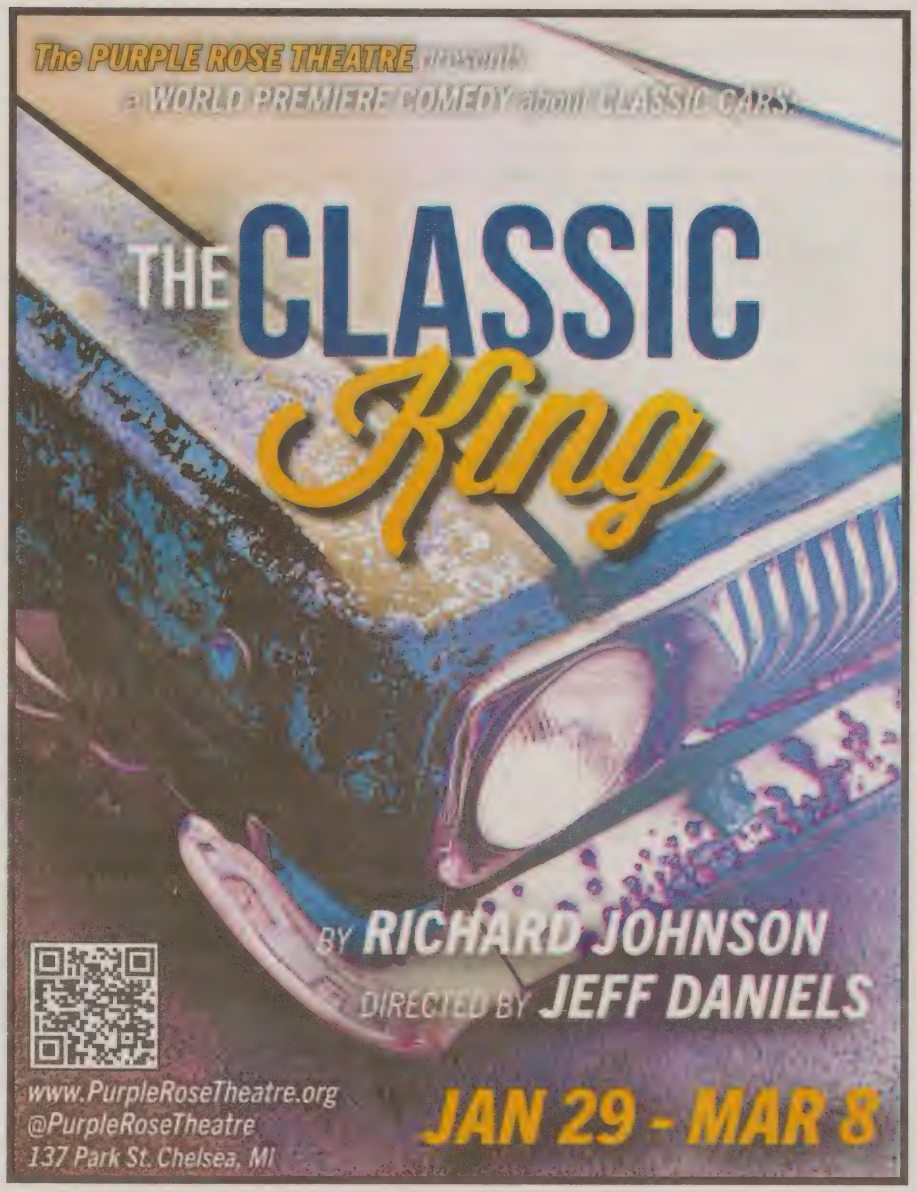
"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday. 7:15 p.m.

Orquesta Sinfónica de Minería: University Musical Society. Celebrated conductor **Carlos Miguel Prieto** leads this Mexico City–based symphony orchestra, widely regarded as the leading musical institution in Mexico, in a concert featuring orchestral works of the Americas, as well as Haydn's Trumpet Concerto in E-flat major. Celebrated Venezuelan trumpet soloist **Pacho Flores**, known for his commanding technique, features in both the Haydn concerto and Paquito D'Rivera's Grammy-winning *Concerto Venezolano*. The program includes Silvestre Revueltas's vibrant *Sensemayá,* Alberto Ginastera's "Dances" from *Estancia*, based on his 1941 ballet about gaucho life on an Argentine ranch, and Arturo Márquez's *Danzón No. 2,* inspired by traditional Cuban salon danzón music. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. in the lower lobby by **"The Society for Disobedient Listeners,"** a talk by Chicago-based music writer and violist Doyle Armbrust. *7:30 p.m. Hill Auditorium. Tickets $19–$108 ($15–$20 students) in advance at tickets.ums.org, at the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. (734) 764–2538.*

22 THURSDAY

★**U-M Center for Japanese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** *Jan. 22 & 29.* Talks by visiting scholars. *Jan. 22:* Hosei University (Japan) urban & environmental sociology professor Saburo Horikawa discusses Japanese urban preservation policy in **"Why Place Matters: The 'Publicness' of the Lost Landscape."** *Jan. 29:* The new consul general of Japan in Detroit, Hajime "Jimmy" Kishimori, on **"Three Questions for Japan in Michigan: Where, Who, and What? An Analysis of Japan's Presence and Contributions to Michigan."** The Consulate-General of Japan is a business-oriented diplomatic mission in downtown Detroit. Bring a bag lunch. *Noon–1:30 p.m., Weiser Hall, 10th fl., 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–6307.*

★**"Exercise & World Dances": International Neighbors.** Area women invited to enjoy light exercise and learn various dance styles from around the world. Also, a chance to



★ *Denotes a free event*

learn about the organization and its various special interest, language, and hobby groups. International Neighbors is a 66-year-old group of local women who welcome women from other countries. Kids welcome. *1–2:30 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. inannarbor.org.*

★**"Solo Acts: A Conversation & Theatrical Performance on Solo Aging": Limelight.** Amateur local actors perform monologues on aging based on conversations with seniors living alone. Also, a discussion on living solo as a senior. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. *5 p.m., U-M Ypsilanti Health Center, 300 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsi. Free. Preregistration requested at tinyurl.com/nrnzap6z. (734) 998–9353, limelightlive.org.*

★**"Crochet Coasters": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to crochet a 2-tone drink coaster. Some crochet experience required. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"A Relay, Not a Sprint: Intergenerational Perspectives on Environmental Justice & Resilience": U-M School for Environment and Sustainability.** Panel discussion in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day includes Detroit-based Eastside Community Network president and CEO Donna Givens Davidson, Detroit-based textile recycling company NexTiles founder and CEO Madeline Miller, and U-M environment and biology student Karina Yang. Moderated by U-M public health & sustainability student Nayomi Cawthorne. Reception follows. *5:30–6:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre, 4th fl. Free. Reservation requested at tinyurl.com/um-mlk-relay-1-26. Also available via livestream. (734) 764–6453.*

★**"Design Beyond the Center: Stories of *Jugaad*, Resilience, and Collective Knowledge": U-M Stamps School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series.** Indian American industrial designer, architect, and U-M art professor **Deepa Butoliya** discusses her work exploring design practices from around the world. Her current research focuses on *jugaad*, a Hindi term meaning "making do with what you have," representing a mindset of resourcefulness and adaptability. *5:30–7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. (734) 936–0671.*

★**"Make (Almost) Anything Into a Keychain": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to use small power tools to drill holes in everyday objects, then connect them with metal links. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Can You Trust What You See? AI and the Future of Democracy": The Braver Angels. All invited to join members of this network of local, citizen-led groups focused on bridging America's political divide for a discussion on AI's impact on politics. *6–8 p.m., Dexter's Pub, 8114 Main St., Dexter. Free. washtenaw.braverangels.org.*

Louis Katz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 22–24.* Highly regarded veteran L.A. comic with a dark, self-deprecating style that has been described as "cerebral filth." Opening act TBA. Alcohol served. *7:15 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $20 (Thurs., $15) at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

films

★**Ann Arbor District Library.** Occasional free screenings in the Downtown branch, lower level program rm., and other locations as noted. (734) 327–4200.

***Jan. 4:* "My Neighbor Totoro"** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1988). Dubbed screening of this Japanese anime tale about two girls who move to the countryside and befriend strange and delightful nature spirits. 11 a.m.

***Jan. 4:* "The Secret World of Arrietty"** (Hiromasa Yonebayashi, 2012). Dubbed screening of this Japanese anime based on *The Borrowers,* Mary Norton's classic 1952 children's novel about a family of tiny people living in the recesses of a human home. 2 p.m.

Fathom Entertainment. (734) 973–8424 (Ann Arbor 20), (734) 316–5500 (Emagine). Tickets $12.50 (except as noted) in advance at fathomentertainment.com/events and at the door. Ann Arbor 20 (4100 Carpenter, Ypsi.) & Emagine (1335 E. Michigan Ave., Saline), various times.

***Jan. 2–5:* "Kidz Bop Live."** Concert film of a recent performance by this popular group of teen singers & dancers who do family-friendly covers of pop songs. 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. (Ann Arbor 20 only).

***Jan 8–11:* "Labyrinth"** (Jim Henson, 1986). Musical fantasy about a teenage girl who has 13 hours to navigate a maze to save her baby brother from the evil Goblin King. David Bowie, Jennifer Connelly. 6:45 p.m. (Ann Arbor 20) & 7 p.m. (Emagine).

***Jan. 10 & 14:* "I Puritani."** Live (Sat.) & prerecorded (Wed.) broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera's new production of Vincenzo Bellini's bel canto masterpiece about the forbidden love between a Puritan woman and a Royalist man during the English Civil War. Italian, subtitles. 1 p.m. (Wed., Ann Arbor 20 only). $24.

***Jan. 12, 13, & 15:* "Gundam Premiere Night."** Dubbed (Mon. & Tues.) and subtitled (Thurs.) screenings of 2 feature-length compilations of TV shows from this popular anime franchise about an epic battle between giant piloted robots to determine the fate of Earth. 7 p.m. (Ann Arbor 20 only).

***Jan. 16 & 23:* "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring"** (Peter Jackson, 2001). Extended version of the first of the epic adventure movie trilogy based on J.R.R. Tolkien's classic 3-volume fantasy series concerning a humble hobbit trying to save the world of Middle-earth by destroying the one ring of power. 6:30 p.m. (Ann Arbor 20) & 7 p.m. (Emagine).

***Jan. 17 & 24:* "The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers"** (Peter Jackson, 2002). Extended version of this fantasy sequel in which hobbit Frodo Baggins and his loyal companion Sam continue their quest, aided by the treacherous Gollum. 1 p.m.

***Jan. 18 & 25:* "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"** (Peter Jackson, 2003). Extended version of the conclusion of this fantasy trilogy in which Frodo, Sam, and Gollum overcome many obstacles, including the corrupting influence of the powerful ring they carry, as they travel towards a culminating battle against the evil Sauron. 1 p.m.

***Jan. 24 & 28:* "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay."** Live (Sat.) & prerecorded (Wed.) broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera's premiere production of contemporary American composer Mason Bates's new opera based on Michael Chabon's sweeping novel about 2 Jewish cousins who create a comic-book superhero, hoping to recruit America into the fight against Nazism. 1 & 6:30 p.m. (Sun., Emagine only). $15.

★**Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** FREE. Jewel Heart, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. Concessions. jewelheart.org. (734) 994–3387.

***Jan. 9:* "The Last Dalai Lama?"** (Mickey Lemle, 2016). Documentary about the 14th Dalai Lama, his influence in political and spiritual circles, his work with educators and scientists, and his feelings about whether there will be a 15th Dalai Lama. Followed by discussion. 7 p.m.

Michigan Theater. Film screenings every day. Tickets $10.50 unless otherwise noted (children under 12, students, seniors age 65 and older, & U.S. veterans, $8.50; Marquee Arts members, $8) in advance online (recommended) & at the door. For updated schedule, see marquee-arts.org/calendar.

***Jan. 1:* "The Wizard of Oz"** (Victor Fleming, 1939). Classic musical adaptation of L. Frank Baum's 1900 children's fantasy novel. The film stars Judy Garland as a resourceful farm girl from Kansas dropped by a tornado into the surreal world of Oz, just trying to get back home. 1:30 p.m.

***Jan. 1:* "Stranger Things 5: The Finale"** (Matt & Ross Duffer, 2025). The final "episode" of the Netflix science fiction horror TV show about a group of kids in the 1980s battling strange forces. 4:30 p.m.

***Jan. 1:* "The Blues Brothers"** (John Landis, 1980). Comedy about a pair of ex-con blues musicians trying to save the Catholic orphanage where they grew up. John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd, Cab Calloway, Aretha Franklin, John Lee Hooker, Ray Charles. 8 p.m.

***Jan. 2:* "Romy & Michele's High School Reunion"** (David Mirkin, 1997). Mira Sorvino and Lisa Kudrow star in this comedy as two low achievers who invent fake careers to attend their 10-year high school reunion. 9:30 p.m.

***Jan. 6:* "Throne of Blood"** (Akira Kurosawa, 1957). Stunning reconception of Shakespeare's Macbeth, set in feudal Japan's samurai warrior society. Japanese, subtitles. 7 p.m.

***Jan. 8:* "Midnight Run"** (Martin Brest, 1988). Action-comedy thriller with pitch-perfect performances by Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin playing an odd couple bail bondsman and mob accountant on the run. 8 p.m.

***Jan. 9:* "Hot Fuzz"** (Edgar Wright, 2007). Highly entertaining British buddy cop parody. 9:30 p.m.

★***Jan. 11:* "Lilo & Stitch"** (Chris Sanders, 2002). Animated Disney sci-fi comedy-drama about a troubled young Hawaiian girl and her genetically engineered alien experiment friend. FREE; reservation requested at marquee-arts.org. 11 a.m.

***Jan. 13:* "Richard III"** (Laurence Olivier, 1955). Laurence Olivier directs himself as the villainous king in this British Technicolor film adaptation of Shakespeare's history play. 7 p.m.

Jan. 14: Cozy Craft Club Screening of **"Clueless"** (Amy Heckerling, 1995). All invited to bring their knitting, coloring book, or any craft to watch (with the house lights up) this endearing tale of high schoolers in Beverly Hills, loosely inspired by Jane Austen's *Emma.* 7 p.m.

***Jan. 15:* "Pitch Perfect"** (Jason Moore, 2012). Sleeper hit musical comedy about an all-woman college a cappella group. 8 p.m.

***Jan. 16:* "Superbad"** (Greg Mottola, 2007). Coming-of-age teen buddy comedy classic with very funny performances by Michael Cera and Jonah Hill. 9:30 p.m.

★***Jan. 19:* "Rustin"** (George C. Wolfe, 2023). Coleman Domingo plays civil rights activist Bayard Rustin in this dramatic biopic. FREE; reservation requested at marquee-arts.org. 1:30 p.m.

***Jan. 20:* "Romeo + Juliet"** (Baz Luhrmann, 1996). Inventive take on Shakespeare's romantic tragedy that retains Shakespeare's language but sets it in a modern milieu, with guns, the mafia, and TV news. Shot in Mexico City, the film stars Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. 7 p.m.

***Jan. 22:* "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure"** (Stephen Herek, 1989). Slacker teen comedy classic with the catchphrase, "be excellent to each other." 8 p.m.

***Jan. 23:* "Bad Boys II"** (Michael Bay, 2003). Action comedy starring Martin Lawrence and Will Smith as Miami detectives. 9:30 p.m.

***Jan. 28:* "First Wives Club"** (Hugh Wilson, 1996). Comedy starring Bette Midler, Goldie Hawn, and Diane Keaton as revenge-seeking divorcées. 7 p.m.

***Jan. 29:* "Up in Smoke"** (Lou Adler, 1978). Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong, stoned again in this buddy comedy. 8 p.m.

***Jan. 30:* "Resurgo: the Rise from Within"** (Stephen McGee, 1978). Documentary about the people-powered rise of Detroit. Followed by a Q&A with the director and producer Jessica Care Moore. 7 p.m.

***Jan. 30:* "Booksmart"** (Olivia Wilde, 2019). Comedy about 2 overachieving high schoolers who try to cram 4 years of fun into graduation night. 9:30 p.m.

***Jan. 31:* "Godzilla"** (Ishirō Honda, 1954) & **"Godzilla vs. Hedorah"** (Yoshimitsu Banno, 1971). Double feature featuring this Japanese dystopian monster, spawned by human folly and hubris. Japanese, subtitles. 1 p.m. ("Godzilla") & 3:15 p.m. ("Godzilla vs. Hedorah").

***Jan. 31:* "Iron Lung"** (Mark Fischbach, 2025). Science fiction horror film, an adaptation of a 2022 indie video game in which an inadequately equipped convict is sent on an exploratory submersible mission in a post-apocalyptic future. 7 p.m.

State Theatre. Film screenings every Wed.–Sun. Tickets $10.50 unless otherwise noted (children under 12, students, seniors age 65 and older, & U.S. veterans, $8.50; Marquee Arts members, $8) in advance online (recommended) & at the door. (734) 668–8397. For updated schedule, see marquee-arts.org/calendar.

***Jan. 8:* "Hundreds of Beavers"** (Mike Cheslik, 2024). Broadly comic, mostly silent black-and-white slapstick extravaganza about a drunken applejack salesman who battles hundreds of sinister beavers, played by men in beaver suits. 7 p.m.

★***Jan. 10:* "House of the Seasons"** (Oh Jung-min, 2023). Drama about a three-generation tofu-making family in a rural Korean town. Korean, subtitles. FREE. 1 p.m.

★***Jan. 20:* "I'm Still Here"** (Walter Salles, 2024). Moving biographical drama about Eunice Paiva, a mother and activist coping with the forced disappearance of her husband, dissident Rubens Paiva, during the military dictatorship in Brazil. FREE. Portuguese, subtitles. 5:30 p.m.

★***Jan. 22:* "Beyond the Infinite Two Minutes"** (Junta Yamaguchi, 2025). Microbudget one-take film in which a cafe owner discovers that the TV in his cafe shows images from the future, but only two minutes into the future. FREE. Japanese, subtitles. 7 p.m.

★***Jan. 24:* "Big Deal"** (Choi Yun-jin, 2025). Set during the 1997 Asian financial crisis, two men do battle for control of a renowned soju company in this drama. FREE. Korean, subtitles. 1 p.m.

Washtenaw Community College/Set Free. WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 in advance at tinyurl.com/setfree-a2-1-11-26 and at the door.

***January 11:* "The Right Track"** (Shareen Anderson, 2025). Documentary that features interviews with survivors of human trafficking and posits solutions to stop the practice. Followed by a Q&A with one of the featured interviewees. 2:30 p.m.

SUN CHAO

The Out Loud Chorus performs "Friends of Dorothy," a tribute to L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, Jan. 23 & 24.

23 FRIDAY

★**"Friday Night AI: Deepfakes, AI, and the Future of Trust": U-M Artificial Intelligence Lab/Ann Arbor District Library.** U-M AI Lab faculty discuss the implications of recent advances that have made it easier to generate convincing synthetic audio and video. *6:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown. Free. (734) 327–4200, ai.engin.umich.edu/events/friday-night-ai.*

Candlelight Concert: Kalkaska String Quartet. *Jan. 23 & 30 (different programs).* This Detroit-based ensemble presents candlelight concerts. Tonight: **"A Tribute to Queen and the Beatles"** (6:30 p.m.) features instrumental arrangements of music by these two popular rock bands; and **"A Tribute to Coldplay and Imagine Dragons"** (8:45 p.m.), highlights arrangements of music by these 2 early 21st-century rock bands. Age 8 & up. *6:30 & 8:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. $28–$62 per show. Preregistration required at feverup.com/en/ann-arbor/candlelight.*

"Half His Age": Literati Bookstore. Writer and former child actor **Jennette McCurdy**, author of the bestselling memoir about her relationship with her overbearing mother, *I'm Glad My Mom Died,* discusses her debut novel, a poignant yet funny character study of a 17-year-old girl in love with her creative writing teacher. *7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $38 (includes a signed copy of the book) in advance at literatibookstore.com & (if available) at the door. (734) 585–5567.*

"Melodies & Morsels: France": Kerrytown Concert House. The first of a new KCH music and food culture series in collaboration with Zingerman's Deli. Guided by a Zingerman's French food and wine expert, attendees sample a **tasting box** of three French nibbles paired with an assortment of French wines, while veteran Ludington ensemble **Third Coast Swing** featuring violinist **Grant Flick** explores the music of swing-era Gypsy jazz from Django Reinhardt's Hot Club of France. With guitarists Steve and Kaedin Plummer, and bassist Tom Knific. *7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $40–$60 (students, $30–$50) in advance only by Jan. 20 at kerrytownconcerthouse.com. (734) 769–2999.*

Louis Katz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 22 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

★**"From Countryside to Concert Hall": Telegraph Quartet (U-M Music School).** This acclaimed San Francisco–based chamber ensemble, currently U-M music school artists-in-residence, performs a program of works that incorporate elements of folk music, including Haydn's String Quartet in C Major, contemporary American composer Derrick Skye's *American Mirror, Part 1,* and Béla Bartók's String Quartet no. 2. *7:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. (734) 763–2538.*

"Friends of Dorothy": Out Loud Chorus. *Jan. 23 & 24.* Saleel Menon directs this 135-member volunteer chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends, in a program telling the story of L. Frank Baum's classic *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* from a queer perspective. The program includes songs from Broadway and Hollywood, choral music, and pop songs ranging from Elton John to Katy Perry. Accompaniment by pianist Casey Baker. *8–10 p.m., Lincoln High School, 7425 Willis Rd., Ypsi. Tickets $23 (students, seniors, or anyone in need, $15) in advance at olconline.org/events and at the door. Livestream available for $25. (734) 265–0740.*

Billy King: Rancho Tranquilico. House concert by this veteran local singer-songwriter guitarist who plays catchy, blues-inflected folk-rock with direct and thoughtful lyrics. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), 11300 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. Park along the driveway. $25 in advance only (space limited) via Venmo at william-king-673 & PayPal at afreeid@gmail.com. (734) 223–2321, treemore13@gmail.com.*

"Pop-Up Comedy": Don't Tell Comedy Show. Both the lineup of stand-up comics and the location are not revealed until the day of the show. Age 21+. Drinks for sale. *8 p.m. (doors open 30 minutes before showtime), Burns Park neighborhood indoor location. Tickets $30 in advance only at donttellcomedy.com/cities/ann-arbor.*

"Tree Town Stand-Up Showcase": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Performances by 6 area stand-up comics TBA. *9–10:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events and $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

24 SATURDAY

U-M Men's Lacrosse vs. Robert Morris. The U-M opens its season with an exhibition match. This month's home schedule also includes a game vs. **Mercyhurst** (Jan. 31, time TBA). *Time TBA, U-M Lacrosse Stadium, 2500 S. State. Ticket price TBA in advance at mgoblue.com & at the gate. (734) 764–0247.*

"Wildflower Winter Sowing": Stewardship Network Seeds to Community. *Jan. 24 & 25 and Feb. 21 & 22.* All invited to sow native seeds and take home ready-to-grow setups to place outside for the cold period they need to sprout in spring. All experience levels welcome; supplies and seeds provided, but bring milk jugs if you have them. Choose one date and time slot. *10 a.m.–noon or noon–2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $6 suggested donation at the door; metered parking. Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/um-wildflower-winter. seeds2community@gmail.com.*

THANK YOU 2025 RAIN GARDEN STEWARDS

Sarah Anton
Michael Benham
Sandy Breck
Ryan & Molly Brookshire
Joan Bruggers
Henry Buchtel
Nugget Burkhart
Lelia Burley-Sanford
Liz Calhoun
Anne & Follett Carter
Adi Chakrabarty
Lily Chen
Niarra Coleman
Jason Contrucci
Cara Crisostomo
Anita Daley
Loris Damerow
Sean Dougherty
Janis Eckstein
Walter Faggett
Gwynne Fisher
Janet Frank
Kevin Fuqua
Inge Gaiser
Julia Gold
Alex Gonzalez
Martha Hill
Liz Hillgren
John Hollowell
Erich Jensen
Lisa Johnson
Seema Jolly
Tricia Jones
Kelly Jones
Geneva Langeland
Dan Leonard
Betsy Lindsley
Kate Maddox
Emily Martin
Lindsey Messing
Monica Milla
Elizabeth Morehead
Sarah Nedrich
Lynn Olson
Jim Osborn
Jeannine Palms
Alyssa Pozniak
Linda Prieskorn
Jean Pursell
Jackie Richards
Sally Richie
Marsha Rinke
Summer Roberts
Janice Robertson
Cheryl Saam
Doug Scales
Amy Sczcepanski
Chris Simmons
Peter Smith
Adele Sowinski
Sue Stickel
Maurice Stovall Sr.
Sally Tamm
Karen Thurman
Barb Tiews
Stan Towers
Jenn Toye
Georgette Turner
Jack Wallace
Doug Watchmann
Jeanie Wilson
Michelle Worsham
Sheryl Wytychak
CIGLR Group

MASTER RAIN GARDENER

3 Ways to Take the Class:
1. In-person class starts Apr. 8, 2026
2. Live online course starts Feb. 26, 2026
3. Watch recorded videos online anytime!

Class content and more info at:
MasterRainGardener.org

Already built your rain garden?
Get on the map! bit.ly/RainScaping

Questions? Email Susan at BryanS@washtenaw.org

WASHTENAW COUNTY WATER RESOURCES COMMISSIONER

The Rain Garden Program is hosted by the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office. Our work is partially funded by and done in collaboration with the City of Ann Arbor, the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Pittsfield Township.

★ *Denotes a free event*

"Learn to See Winter Trees": Hudson Mills Metropark. Hudson Mills park interpreters lead participants age 10 & up on a walk to learn how to identify trees in winter by looking at their bark and buds. *1–2 p.m., Hudson Mills River Grove Picnic Shelter, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $5 ($3 ages 3–17; free, age 2 and under). Preregistration required at tinyurl.com/hm-wintertree-1-26 by 4 p.m. the day before the program. Metroparks pass or $10 vehicle entry fee. (734) 426–8211.*

★**"Oops! All Clay": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids grade 2 & up invited to sculpt with a variety of air-dry and oven-bake clay. Instructional videos provided. Supplies limited. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Screen Printing Lab": Ann Arbor District Library.** Modati Studios representatives show adults & teens how to screen print. Materials provided, including tote bags to print on; bring other items to print on if desired. *1–3:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Splatoon 3: Hyper-Local Splatfest": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to play a tournament version of this popular Nintendo Switch video game. Participants may bring their own Switch handheld consoles or borrow one from the library. *1–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Family Folk Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. Drake Meadow calls dances suitable for children and adults to live music by Susie Lorand, Josh Burdick, and Donna Baird. All ages welcome. Bring clean shoes for dancing. *2:30–4:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $15/family or $6/person (Grange members, free). (734) 395–7782, (734) 274–0773.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Iowa. The Wolverines are in search of their 28th Big Ten Conference title. *3:45 p.m., Crisler Center. Tickets from $8 in advance at mgoblue.com/tickets and (if available) at the gate. (734) 764–0247.*

★**"The Protest Archive: A Conversation on Advocacy, Art, and Dissent": UMMA.** Discussion between artist and curator **Julie Ault** and archivist **Julie Herrada** about UMMA's new exhibit, **"American Sampler: Activating the Archive"** (see Galleries), about how research, curatorial practice, and artistic vision come together in the exhibition to explore histories of social movements in the U.S. *4–5:30 p.m., UMMA, Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free, preregistration required at umma.umich.edu/events. (734) 764–0395.*

★**"Winter Bird Pastel Portraits": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to use vibrant powdered pastel pigments to make portraits of winter birds, including cardinals, blue jays, and woodpeckers. *6–7 p.m., AADL Traverwood. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert": EMU Dance Department. Members of EMU's resident dance ensemble Company E perform a mixed repertoire of new ballet, modern, and contemporary works by Sherry Wilkinson, other EMU dance faculty, and guest choreographers Kassie Kiel, Thayer Jonutz, Ronald Ford, and Marly Speiser-Schneider. *7–9 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Pl., Ypsi. Tickets $10 in advance at emich.ludus.com and at the door. (734) 487–2849.*

"It's TAPpening!": RhythM Tap Ensemble. This U-M student tap dance ensemble showcases its lively and elaborate choreography to up-tempo pop, rock, jazz, and electronic music. Also, guest appearances by the U-M student Blue Bop Jazz Orchestra and other student dance groups, including Impact, Michigan Competitive Dance, Michigan Jump Rope, and VYRL. *7 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre. Ticket price TBA in advance at mutotix.umich.edu & at the door.*

Louis Katz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 22 Thursday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

"Mozart & Beethoven": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. A2SO director **Earl Lee** conducts this polished local orchestra in a program highlighted by Mozart's agile and elegant Piano Concerto No. 23, featuring guest soloist **Michelle Cann,** a Grammy-winning pianist who made her debut at age 14. She has been praised for her virtuosity and palpable joy in performance. *La Scena Musicale* called her "technically fearless, with a bold attack and an enormous, rich sound." Also on the program, Mozart's Overture to *Così fan tutte*, with its lively, capering entanglements, Beethoven's amiable Symphony No. 4, and Gabriela Lena Frank's *Elegía Andina,* which has influences of Western art music and Peruvian folk music. Preconcert talk at 6:30 p.m. *7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $13–$79 in advance at a2so.com & the A2SO office (35 Research Dr., ste. 100), and (if available) at the door. (734) 994–4801.*

"Friends of Dorothy": Out Loud Chorus. See 23 Friday. 8 p.m.

Ben Daniels Band: Rancho Tranquilico. House concert by this Chelsea quintet, led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Daniels. The group plays artful, dynamic rock 'n' roll whose influences range from Robert Johnson to Dylan to Jack White. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7:30 p.m.), 11300 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. Park along the driveway. $25 in advance only (space limited) via Venmo at @bendband. (734) 223–2321, treemore13@gmail.com.*

25 SUNDAY

★**"Winter Wander": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Kelsey Dehring leads a hike to enjoy towering trunks in a frozen forest, and identify trees, wildlife, and hopefully tracks in the snow. *10 a.m.–noon, Scio Woods Preserve, 4000 Scio Church Rd. Free. Preregistration required (capacity limited) at washtenaw.org/registerparks (#811009). Email dehringk@washtenaw.org with questions.*

★**"Preschool Expo": Ann Arbor District Library.** Representatives from area preschools are on hand to answer questions from parents of prospective preschoolers. *1–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"PokéBattle Sunday": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and kids grade 3 & up invited to compete in a livestream Pokémon tournament. Participants may bring their own Nintendo switch consoles or use one of the library's. *1–4 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Schuler Books, 2513 Jackson Ave. Free. annarborstorytelling.org.*

★**"Michigan Counties and the Revolutionary War Figures They're Named For": Pittsfield Township Historical Society/StoryPoint-Saline.** Talk by local Daughters of the American Revolution member Judy Van Poperin. *2 p.m., StoryPoint, 6230 S. State, Saline. Free. info@pittsfieldhistory.*

★**"American Sampler: Activating the Archive": UMMA Exhibition Tour.** Artist and curator **Julie Ault** leads a tour of and discussion about her work on UMMA's new exhibit (see Galleries) about the histories of social movements in the U.S. *2–3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free, preregistration required at umma.umich.edu/events. (734) 764–0395.*

★**"Girl on Girl": Bløm Mead + Cider Book Club.** All invited to discuss *Atlantic* staff writer Sophie Gilbert's 2025 nonfiction critique of how modern misogyny has been shaped by a mass culture attuned to male desire and all-pervasive pornography. *2:30–3:30 p.m., Bløm, 100 S. Fourth Ave. Free, but purchase of food and drink encouraged. (734) 548–9729.*

★**"Crafting with the Pantone 2026 Color of the Year": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to make pom-poms, origami, and other crafts using the Pantone Color Institute's Color of the Year, Cloud Dancer, a soft and billowy white that signifies clarity, quiet optimism, and a collective need for reset. *3–4:30 p.m., AADL Westgate.* Free. (734) 327–4200.

★**U-M Life Sciences Orchestra.** Nicholas Bromilow conducts this ensemble of musicians from the U-M medical and life sciences staff in Lili Boulanger's biting yet impressionistic *D'un matin de Printemps,* Aaron Copland's sweeping and pastoral *Tender Land Suite,* and Danish composer Carl Nielsen's *Inextinguishable Symphony,* a work composed during WWI that blends a sense of violent struggle with a stunning and triumphant musical expression of what Nielsen called "the elemental will to live." *4–6:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. (734) 936–ARTS.*

"Mic Drop": Hear.Say Brewing + Theater. Experienced improvisers take part in a fully improvised singing competition show with live accompaniment. Followed at 7:30 p.m. by a **Musical Improv Jam:** All invited to sing or move in musical/comical improv games and exercises, led by a facilitator and accompanist. No experience required. Spectators welcome. *6:30 p.m., HSBT, 2350 W. Liberty. $15 in advance at heardotsay.com/events, $18 (if available) at the door. hello@heardotsay.com.*

Bil Lepp: The Ark. A Charleston (WV) storyteller and 5-time champion of the West Virginia Liars Contest, Lepp spins humorously outrageous tall tales about everyday life that often contain morsels of truth while presenting universal themes in clever and witty ways. One *Charleston Gazette* reviewer described him as "a cross between Dr. Seuss and film noir." *7:30 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $29 in advance at theark.org, and $25 (if available) at the door. (734) 761–1818.*

26 MONDAY

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Washtenaw Women's Community Chorus (formerly Women's Chamber Chorus).** 2026 rehearsals begin. All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing an eclectic program, including classical, folk, Broadway, pop, and jazz. Ben Gaughran directs; Joshua Marzan accompanies. *9:30–11:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, rear ground level, 1432 Washtenaw Ave. Free to visitors ($175 per semester for those who join). annringia@gmail.com.*

★**"Freedom Flotilla Coalition" Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies MLK Day Lecture.** Detroit-born lawyer and Palestinian activist **Huwaida Arraf** discusses her work with the grassroots international movement that coordinates civilian-led aid missions by sea to break Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip. *4:30–6:30 p.m., 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 615–8482.*

"Consent: A Memoir": Literati Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of novelist Jill Ciment's 2025 account of her decades-long marriage to a 47-year-old man she met when she was 17. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Tickets $5 (can be redeemed for store credit) in advance only at literatibookstore.com. (734) 585–5567.*

★**"Every Step She Takes": Booksweet Bookshop Romance Book Club.** All invited to discuss Alison Cochrun's 2025 sapphic romance about a pair of women on a European adventure. *7–8 p.m., Booksweet, Courtyard Shops, 1729 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration requested at shopbooksweet.com.*

27 TUESDAY

★**"Rapping Minority-ness: Rap as Vernacular Theory in China": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Talk by U-M Chinese studies grad student Dendi Tso. *Noon–1 p.m., 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–6308.*

★**Gian Bernini: Ann Arbor District Library Art History in the Afternoon.** Local art historian Kathy Gunderson discusses the life and work of this 17th-century Italian sculptor, architect, painter, and city planner. *2–3:15 p.m., AADL Pittsfield. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Can We Move from October 7 to Peacemaking?": U-M Raoul Wallenberg Institute.** Panel discussion with Israeli political scientist Shai Feldman and Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research director Khalil Shikaki. *4 p.m., Rackham Amphitheatre. Free. wallenberginstitute@umich.edu.*

★**"Conquer the Cold Midpoint Mixer": Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority.** All invited to join city transportation planners for strategy sharing and socializing. Part of a local cold weather commuting challenge that runs Jan. 20–Feb. 20. *5–7 p.m., Detroit Street Filling Station, 300 Detroit St. Free. Preregistration encouraged at conquerthecold.org.*

★**"Intro to Laser Engraving: Hand-Drawn Designs": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to use a laser cutter to turn their own hand-drawn design into a laser engraving. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"New Initiatives for a New Year: Paving a Path for Sustainability Progress in 2026": City of Ann Arbor Sustainability Forum.** Office of Sustainability & Innovations representatives discuss new sustainability initiatives, programs, and commitments coming to Ann Arbor in 2026. *6–7 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 794–6000, a2gov.org/sustainability.*

★**"A Half-Century of Recovery Efforts": Michigan Botanical Society.** Retired Michigan Tech environmental science professor Terry L. Sharik, a U-M grad, discusses efforts aimed at the recovery of the endangered Virginia round-leaf birch (*Betula uber*). Q&A. *7 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens Auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. michiganbotanicalsociety.org/huron-valley-chapter.*

28 WEDNESDAY

★**"Poetic Voice from a Russian Prison: Zhenya Berkovich and Her Striking Protest": U-M Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.** Russian journalist, playwright, and activist Anna Narinskaya discusses this imprisoned Russian director and playwright who runs a theater group in her penal colony. *Noon–1:20 p.m., 555 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. (734) 764–0351.*

★**"Roots & Shoots: Winter Root Vegetable Adventure": Ann Arbor District Library.** Gather & Grow catering staff lead a tasting of roasted & raw root vegetables and demonstrate how to make pickles. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, lower level program rm. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Gangdong-gu Travelogue": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL director Eli Neiburger, librarian Erin Helmrich, and library technician Allison Jones discuss what they learned visiting public libraries on a recent trip to South Korea. *6–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday. 7:15 p.m.

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M Music School.** Jayce Ogren leads this music student ensemble in a series of symphonic tone poems, including contemporary American composer Sarah Kirkland Snider's ocean-inspired *Marmoris,* Respighi's *The Fountains of Rome,* and 19th-century Czech composer Bedřich Smetana's ode to his native Prague, *The Moldau,* along with contemporary American composer Mason Bates's *Liquid Interface,* an innovative symphony for electronica and orchestra that incorporates house & techno rhythms. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. (734) 764–0594.*

29 THURSDAY

★**U-M Clements Library Tour.** Hour-long docent-led tour of the Clements' early American history collection highlighted by a new student-curated exhibit *Revolutionary Paine,* a collection of materials exploring the impact of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense. 4–5 p.m., Clements Library, 909 South University. Free; preregistration required at clements.*

kids calendar (ages 12 & under)

AADL: Ann Arbor District Library, (734) 327–4200, aadl.org. Events (all free) offered at **Downtown** (343 S. Fifth Ave.), **Westgate** (2503 Jackson Ave.), **Traverwood** (3333 Traverwood), **Malletts Creek** (3090 E. Eisenhower), and **Pittsfield** (2359 Oak Valley) branches, as well as the **AADL Warehouse** (265 Parkland Plz.).

HSHV: Humane Society of Huron Valley, (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org. 3100 Cherry Hill Rd. Events also hosted at **Tiny Lions** Lounge & Adoption Center (5245 Jackson Rd., ste. A1). hshv.org.

★*Fri. Jan. 2 & 9 (10 a.m.–noon), Sun., Jan. 4 (3–4:30 p,.m.), Tues., Jan. 6 (10 a.m.–noon), and Wed., Jan. 7 (4–5:30 p.m.):* **"Nature Play Pop-Ups: Farm to Kitchen": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Kids ages 3–8 (accompanied by a parent or caregiver; older siblings welcome) invited to learn about nature and food and take part in hands-on craft and other activities in one of Matthaei Botanical Gardens' greenhouses. *MBG, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free; metered parking. (734) 647–7600, mbgna.umich.edu/nature-play-pop-ups.*

Jan. 3 (11 a.m. & 1 p.m.): **"Dig": Spinning Dot Theatre/Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** In this interactive theater performance for kids age 5 & under and their families, Monica Kozakiewicz plays an explorer who shares the many treasures she has found at her dig site and introduces the mythical creature who watches over it, introducing children to the wonders of archaeology, paleontology, and gemology. *AAHOM, 220 E. Ann St. Free with $16 museum admission (members, free).*

★*Jan. 3 (11:15 a.m.–noon):* **"Read and Look": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Kelsey staff read *The Museum,* Susan Verde and Peter H. Reynolds' endearing story about a little girl who finds herself on an exciting adventure in an art museum. Followed by a chance for kids ages 4–7 (accompanied by an adult) to explore the museum's collection to find artifacts pictured in the book. *Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. (734) 764–9304.*

★*Jan. 3 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Puddle Painting Inspired by Helen Frankenthaler": AADL Pittsfield.** Kids grades 3–8 invited to create images in the style of this American abstract expressionist artist by dropping dots of watercolor paint on a clean surface and then applying glossy paper for a color-saturated result.

★*Jan. 3 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Creature Cuties": AADL Traverwood.** A chance for kids grades preK–5 to add foam stickers to an oversized pom-pom to create a fluffy animal friend.

★*Jan. 3 (4–5 p.m.):* **Kids & Family Open Mic and Comedy Hour: Oz's Music Environment.** Kids ages 6–12 and family members invited to play a song or share a story or joke. *Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations accepted. (734) 662–8283.*

★*Every Mon.–Fri. (different times):* **Preschool Storytimes: AADL.** Half-hour program of stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (with caregiver). ***Pittsfield*** *(Mon. 10:30 a.m.),* ***Downtown*** *(Tues. 11 a.m.),* ***Malletts Creek*** *(Tues. 11 a.m. & Wed. 10:30 a.m.),* ***Traverwood*** *(Thurs. 11 a.m., except Jan. 1), and* ***Westgate*** *(Fri. 1 p.m.).*

★*Every Mon.–Wed. & Fri. (different times):* **Playgroups for Babies: AADL.** Fifteen minutes of stories, rhymes, and songs led by AADL staffers, followed by a short open playtime. For kids up to 24 months (with caregiver). No older siblings. ***Malletts Creek*** *(Mon. 10:30 a.m.),* ***Traverwood*** *(Tues. 11 a.m.),* ***Westgate*** *&* ***Pittsfield*** *(Wed. 10:30 a.m.), and* ***Downtown*** *(Fri. 10:30 a.m.).*

Jan. 7 & 21 (9:30–10:30 a.m.): **"Tiny Tails Toddler Time": Tiny Lions.** Stories, crafts, fingerplays, and interaction with adoptable cats. For kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult. *Tiny Lions. $10 per kid (babies under age 1, free). Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

Every Thurs., except Jan. 1 (10:30–11:30 a.m.): **"Little Paws Toddler Time": HSHV.** Stories, crafts, & fingerplays. Also, interaction with adoptable cats and dogs and a chance to make a toy or treat for the animals. For kids ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult. *HSHV. $5 (babies under age 1, free). Space limited; preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Jan. 8 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Little Play Date": AADL Westgate.** Open playtime for babies & preschoolers (with caregiver).

Jan. 9 (5:30–8:30 p.m.): **"Pets and Pajamas Movie Night": HSHV.** All kids ages 6–11 invited to watch an animal-themed movie and interact with adoptable pets. Cheese pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag & pillow. Call for movie selection. *HSHV. $35 per child. Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3564, humaneed@hshv.org.*

Jan. 10 & 24 (10–11:30 a.m.): **"Rescue Reading": HSHV.** Kids ages 6–11 invited to work on their reading skills by reading to adoptable animals, using their own or provided books. Also, a group read-aloud and a dog meet-and-greet. No adults. *HSHV. $10. Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

Jan. 10 & 11. (10 a.m.–noon & 2–4 p.m.): **"Crafty Chaos": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Kids of all ages invited to make various crafts. *AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $16 museum admission (babies under 2, free). (734) 995–9439, discoverscienceandnature.org/aahom.*

★*Jan. 10 (1–2 p.m.):* **"All about Braille": AADL Westgate.** Kids grades preK–5 invited to use a slate stylus to write something in Braille, make a Braille craft, complete a tactile coloring sheet, and more.

★*Jan. 10 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Building Big with Paper Cups": AADL Traverwood.** A chance for kids grades preK–3 to stack paper cups into tall towers, pyramids, walls, swirls, and other patterns.

★*Jan. 11 (11–11:45 a.m. & noon–12:45 p.m.):* **"Kids Move!": AADL Westgate.** Local fitness teachers Jesse Deucher & Sarah Kairis lead kids preK & under (11 a.m.) and K–5 (noon) in a sensory-friendly program of music and movement.

★*Jan. 11 (3–4 p.m.):* **"Abominable Paper Dolls": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades K–5 invited to create paper snow monster dolls, complete with moving arms and legs.

★*Jan. 12, 14, & 15 (different times & branch locations):* **"Preschool ArtStart": AADL.** AADL staff lead children ages 2–5, accompanied by an adult, in arts and crafts, with an emphasis on the fun of it. *10:30–11 a.m. (Mon., AADL Traverwood & Thurs., AADL Malletts Creek) and 1:30 p.m. (Wed., AADL Pittsfield).*

★*Jan. 13 (7–7:30p.m.):* **"Here There Be Dragon Tales": AADL Westgate.** AADL staff read dragon stories for kids grades preK–2.

★*Jan. 16–19:* **"KinderConcerts": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** A2SO arts educator Jaxon Williams hosts a program for kids age 5 & under (accompanied by an adult) that includes participatory dancing and singing to live music by A2SO pianist Melissa Coppola and double bassist Gregg Powell. Participants also learn about the instruments. *Jan. 16 (10–10:30 & 11–11:30 a.m.):* **AADL Downtown.** *Jan. 17 (10:30–11 a.m.):* **Chelsea District Library, 221 S. Main, Chelsea.** *Jan. 17 (noon–12:30 p.m.):* **Dexter District Library, 3255 Alpine, Dexter.** *Jan. 17 (2–2:30 p.m.):* **Saline District Library, 555 N. Maple, Saline.** *Jan. 19 (10–10:30 & 11–11:30 a.m.):* **Ypsilanti District Library Whittaker, 5577 Whittaker Rd., Ypsi.** *Various times and locations. Free. (734) 994–4801, a2so.org/kinderconcerts.*

★*Jan. 17 (11 a.m.–noon):* **"Stories & Snowmen": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Environmental Education.** City environmental educator Eleva Potter leads kids ages 3–6 (younger siblings welcome) with adult accompaniment in a program about snowmen that includes songs, stories, and crafting a snowman image out of supplied materials to take home. *Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. Free, preregistration required (space limited) at tinyurl.com/a2parksrec. epotter@a2gov.org.*

★*Jan. 17 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Handsewn Mermaid Money": AADL Downtown.** Kids grade 3 & up invited to sew together felt and a colorful sequin layer to make sand dollars fit for a mermaid.

★*Jan. 17 (2–3 p.m.):* **"DIY Stamps": AADL Traverwood.** A chance for kids grades preK–5 to use foam shapes to make their own rubber stamps.

★*Jan. 17 (2–3 p.m.):* **"Paper Lantern Jellyfish": AADL Malletts Creek.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to make a hanging decoration out of repurposed paper, LED lights, flowing ribbons, & other craft supplies.

★*Jan. 17 (3–4 p.m.):* **"Winter Landscape in a Jar": AADL Downtown.** Kids grade 5 & up invited to use a hot-glue gun to create a winter scene in a glass jar.

★*Jan. 18 (11–11:45 a.m.):* **"Dancing Babies": AADL Downtown.** A program of music and movement for infants and kids age 5 & under (accompanied by an adult).

★*Jan. 18 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Paper Dragon Masks": AADL Westgate.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to assemble a colorful 3D paper dragon mask, then decorate it with markers and precut scales.

★*Jan. 18 (1–2:30 p.m.):* **"HEXBUG Adventures": AADL Pittsfield.** Kids grades K–5 invited to play with the library's robotic HEXBUGs in an interactive obstacle course.

★*Jan. 19 (noon–1* ***p.m.*****):* **"Perler Bead Party": AADL Westgate.** A chance for kids grades preK–5 to make crafts with colorful fusible beads.

★*Jan. 19 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Marble Run Race": AADL Traverwood.** Kids grades preK–5 invited to use tubes, ramps, and connectors to build a marble racetrack.

★*Jan. 19 (1–1:45 p.m.):* **"Young Scientists": AADL Pittsfield.** Science-themed stories and simple science experiments for preschoolers accompanied by a caregiver.

★*Jan. 19 (6–7 p.m.):* **"LEGO Letterpress": AADL Downtown.** A chance for kids grade 3 & up to build a small design out of LEGOs and then make a print of it using the library's letterpress presses.

★*Jan. 23 (11–11:45 a.m.):* **Preschool Dance Party: AADL Pittsfield.** Kids age 5 & under (accompanied by an adult) invited to dance to prerecorded music.

Jan. 23 (5:30–6:30 p.m.): **"Glow Nerf": Pittsfield Township Community Center.** An evening of glow Nerf games for kids ages 6–9, with blasters, glow sticks, and neon targets under black lights. Bring your own Nerf gun, if you have one. A caregiver must be present. *701 W. Ellsworth. $25 (residents, $20) per child. Preregistration required at (734) 822–2120 or recreation.pittsfield-mi.gov.*

Jan. 23 (7:15–8:45 p.m.): **"Cats and Kids": Tiny Lions.** Kids ages 6–11 invited to spend time with adoptable cats and kittens at the Tiny Lions Lounge. Also, crafts and games, popcorn, and juice. Kids only. *Tiny Lions. $20. Preregistration required at hshv.org/event-calendar. (734) 661–3575, humaneed@hshv.org.*

★*Jan. 24 & 31 (10:15–11:15 a.m.):* **"Wee-Write with 826michigan": AADL Malletts Creek.** Kids ages 5–8 invited to work in small groups with adult volunteers to write stories and play creative games.

Jan. 24 & 25 (noon–3 p.m.): **"Critters Up Close!": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Leslie Science & Nature Center staff display live animals TBA. Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities for all ages. *AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $16 museum admission (babies under 2, free). (734) 995–9439, discoverscienceandnature.org/aahom.*

★*Jan. 24 (1–2 p.m.):* **"Clay Monsters": AADL Malletts Creek.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to create silly and fun monsters out of air-dry clay.

★*Jan. 25 (10:30 & 11:30 a.m.):* **Jewish Storytime: AADL Downtown.** Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor storytellers lead a program of stories and activities in English (10:30 a.m.) and Hebrew (11:30 a.m.) for kids ages 4–7.

Jan. 25 (11 a.m.): **"Sun in Ya Hands": Black and Brown Theatre (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just For Kids Series).** This Detroit theater company presents U-M theater lecturer Emilio Rodriguez's contemporary take on the Brothers Grimm's fairy tale "The Frog Prince." Set in the Caribbean, with sets and costumes inspired by the Disney films *Pocahontas* and *Moana,* Rodriguez's updated plot chronicles the unlikely friendship between a frog and a princess, and the important lessons they learn from each other. In Spanish and English. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. by an interactive drumming session, and followed by a chance to meet the cast. Age 5 and up. *Michigan Theater. Tickets $35. (734) 668–8397, marquee-arts.org/calendar.*

★*Jan. 25 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Scratch Off Art": AADL Pittsfield.** Kids grades K–5 invited to use a scraper tool to reveal hidden colors underneath black scratch art paper and create their own designs.

★*Jan. 25 (noon–1 p.m.):* **"Domino Days": AADL Malletts Creek.** A chance for kids grades K–5 to play with the library's dominoes.

★*Jan. 31 (11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.):* **Honey Bee Presentation: AADL Westgate.** Kids grade K & up invited to learn about bees and beekeeping. Followed by a honey tasting and bee-themed games, activities, and crafts. Led by local beekeepers Owen and Rebecca Wittekindt.

★ *Denotes a free event*

umich.edu. (734) 649–3370.

★**"Black Boys and the Future of Technology": U-M Digital Studies Institute.** Online education company Futurlogic founder Jonathan Cropper, Drexel University education technology professor Kareem Edouard, and Latimer founder and CEO John Pasmore are joined by Northwestern University communication studies professor Rayvon Fouché to explore the ways technology can provide new opportunities, pathways, and platforms for Black boys to thrive in the U.S. *4–5:30 p.m., Weiser Hall, 10th fl., 500 Church. Free, but preregistration requested at tinyurl.com/um-disco-1-29-26. Livestream also available.*

★**"Fathers and Sons: Empire, Execution, and Partition in a Revolutionary Age, 1776–1816": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies.** U-M history professor Gregory Dowd discusses the life of Jacob Glen Cuyler, an American born to British loyalist parents in New York who played a role in suppressing the 1815 Slachter's Nek rebellion in South Africa. *4–6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 State. Free. (734) 615–7400.*

★**"Collage & Cryptids": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to layer pre-cut paper shapes to create collage monsters. *6–7 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"Six Days in Bombay": Ann Arbor Jewish Book Series.** Reading and talk by author **Alka Joshi** about her new novel, the story of a young Anglo-Indian nurse who travels from Bombay to Istanbul, Prague, Florence, Paris, and London to uncover the mystery behind a famous painter's death. Signing. *6:30–7:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. Free, preregistration required at jlive.app/events/13368. (734) 971–0990, jccannarbor.org.*

★**"Field Guide to Falling Ill": Literati Bookstore.** University of Chicago creative writing professor **Jonathan Gleason** discusses his new collection of essays exploring illness and medicine. *6:30 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. (734) 585–5567.*

★**"Informal Performance with TeAda": U-M Center for World Performance Studies.** This traveling L.A.-based theater group that focuses on stories of immigrants, refugees and Indigenous peoples showcases pieces created at a workshop earlier today. The public is invited to participate in the workshop at 3 p.m. in the Walgreen Drama Center Studio 2 (1226 Murfin, North Campus). *6:30 p.m., Dance Performance Studio, 1100 Baits, North Campus. Free; space limited, arrive early. smtd.umich.edu/world-performance-studies.*

★**"Learn About Natural Burial and Conservation Burial Grounds": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Jeremiah Commons conservation cemetery founder Tony Mayotte discusses these burial methods that allow the body to naturally break down into nutrients that can be returned to the earth. *7 p.m., 704 Airport Blvd., ste. 1. Free. (734) 657–5384.*

Jen Kober: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 29–31.* Louisiana-born comic actress whose credits include *The Righteous Gemstones, Hacks,* and *American Horror Story,* known in stand-up circles for her sassy demeanor and shaggy-dog stories about women who are always cold, road trip adventures at Waffle House, garbage suddenly appearing in her house, and other adventures. Opening act TBA. Alcohol served. *7:15 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 9:45 p.m. (Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $22 (Thurs., $17) at aacomedy.com and (if available) at the door. (734) 996–9080.*

"The Classic King": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., Jan. 29–Mar. 8.* Purple Rose founder Jeff Daniels directs the world premiere of Michigan playwright Richard Johnson's poignant comedy about three veteran used car salesmen at a Metro Detroit dealership, struggling to cope with a changing industry and customers who are digital natives. When a sharp Gen Z salesman joins the team, he proposes a daring scheme to save the dealership—and its "dinosaur" salesmen—from extinction. Adult language and subject matter. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), & 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.). Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $30–$60 in advance at purplerosetheatre.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. Discounts available. (734) 433–7673.*

ABBY DOTZ

Kerrytown Concert House hosts another in its traditional "Wine, Women & Song" series Jan. 30–Feb. 1.

Julia Keefe Indigenous Big Band: University Musical Society. This 16-piece big band jazz ensemble of Native American musicians, founded in 2022 by Nez Percé vocalist Julia Keefe, is based on the early 20th-century history of bands on reservations across the U.S. and Canada. The ensemble focuses on reimagining traditional Native melodies as well as works from the Great American Songbook performed by Indigenous jazz musicians of the past, such as singer Mildred Bailey and saxophonist Jim Pepper. *8 p.m. Michigan Theater. Tickets $30–$62 ($15–$20, students) in advance at tickets.ums.org, at the Michigan League, and (if available) at the door. (734) 764–2538.*

30 FRIDAY

★**"Silent Disco": Ann Arbor District Library.** Dance party with tunes spun by local electronic musician Ki5 and transmitted to dancers' headphones (provided). *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**"AADL World Famous Trivia": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL staffers lead 2 rounds of trivia aimed at adults. Prizes. *5:30–7:30 p.m., AADL Westgate. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

Candlelight Concert: Kalkaska String Quartet. See 23 Friday. Tonight: **"Vivaldi's Four Seasons & More"** features string quartet arrangements of selections from Vivaldi's most popular concerto and some of his other works. 6:30 & 8:45 p.m.

★**"Fairview": U-M Basement Arts.** *Jan. 30 & 31.* Kendall Brisco directs fellow U-M students in Jackie Sibblies Drury's 2018 comedy-drama that follows a Black family as they prepare for grandma's birthday dinner. A cast of white characters observe the action while commentating on race before one by one assuming the roles of the Black characters in an increasingly uncomfortable conclusion. *7 & 11 p.m. (Fri.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Newman Studio, 1226 Murfin. Free. umichbasementarts.com.*

Jen Kober: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 29 Thursday. 7:15 p.m.

"Wine, Women, & Song XXIV: Songs in the Keys of Life": Kerrytown Concert House. *Jan. 30–Feb. 1.* Popular KCH tradition featuring musical numbers that are alternately witty, poignant, and funny. Singers include Laurie Atwood, Linda Beaupré, Sue Booth, Gayle Martin, Jess Merritt, January Provenzola, Deanna Relyea, Emily Rogers-Driskill, Susan Shipman, Monica Swartout-Bebow, and Kathy Waugh. With pianist Tim Van Riper and drummer Jonathan Brown. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) & 4 p.m. (Sun.), KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets $35–$75 (students, $20–$60) in advance at kerrytownconcerthouse.com and at the door. Ticket includes a glass of wine or nonalcoholic beverage. (734) 769–2999.*

49th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. *Jan. 30 & 31 (different programs).* A major highlight of the local musical calendar, this year's festival features a new format with a shorter headliner show tonight and a lineup tomorrow of established and rising stars representing a wide spectrum of vernacular musical idioms. Tonight's show features 2 sets by **Greensky Bluegrass,** a veteran Kalamazoo progressive bluegrass band known for their musical intricacy and extended improvisational jams. A longtime mainstay on the Michigan bluegrass scene, in recent years the group has risen to national prominence thanks to its relentless touring schedule and string of popular albums. Their brand-new release, *XXV,* a tribute to the band's 25th anniversary, features guest appearances by a who's who of bluegrass luminaries, including Sam Bush, Billy Strings, and Lindsay Lou. *7:30 p.m. (Fri.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), Hill Auditorium. Tickets $57 & up in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & theark.org, and at the door.*

★**"Little Shop of Horrors": The Neutral Zone Royal Players.** *Jan. 30–Feb. 1.* Teen actors perform Howard Ashman and Alan Menken's 1982 musical, a wryly humorous, oddly tender black comedy, adapted from the 1960 Roger Corman B-movie, about a carnivorous plant that grows to ferocious proportions. *7:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.) and 2 p.m. (Sun.), Neutral Zone, 310 W. Washington. Free; donations accepted. neutral-zone.org.*

"Kayak": Theatre Nova. *Every Fri.–Sun., Jan. 30–Feb. 22.* Briana O'Neal directs Canadian playwright Jordan Hall's 3-character comic drama about a doting suburban mother who recounts the chain of events that leaves her stranded in a kayak alone on a vast stretch of water. Her son's penchant for peacemaking, his love for a woman who's a preachy environmental activist, and the mother's own bourgeois complacency all pave the way. *8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 3 p.m. (Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Theatre Nova, 410 W. Huron St. Tickets $32 (seniors, $27; students, $17) in advance at theatrenova.org & at the door. (734) 635–8450.*

"The Classic King": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 29 Thursday. 8 p.m.

31 SATURDAY

★**"Drag Bingo": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to play a lively round of bingo hosted by local drag queen Jadein Black. Prizes. *2–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, 4th fl. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

★**Extra Fluffy Cloud Decorations: Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults & teens invited to use polyester doll stuffing, hot-glue guns, and various other craft supplies to make a fluffy white cloud decoration, complete with lights and glittering blue rain drops. *2–3 p.m., AADL Downtown, Secret Lab. Free. (734) 327–4200.*

"Kayak": Theatre Nova. See 30 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"The Classic King": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 29 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

★**Know Obstacles Open Mic & Comedy Hour: Oz's Music Environment.** Performers of all abilities invited to play instruments, sing songs, and tell jokes with members of this band comprised of kids and adults with special needs. Hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osborn. Spectators welcome. *4–5 p.m., Oz's Music Environment, 1922 Packard. Free; donations accepted. (734) 662–8283.*

49th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. See 30 Friday. Tonight's headliner is **Amos Lee,** a Philadelphia-based veteran Americana roots-rock singer-songwriter whose bluesy and misleadingly simple sound has been compared to that of John Prine and Norah Jones. Lee employs classically structured tunes, honeyed yet funky vocals, and subtly complex lyrics to convey everyday emotions without resorting to sentimentalism. Also appearing: **Dawes** is a Southern California guitar-driven pop- and folk-tinged rock quartet led by singer-songwriter Taylor Goldsmith. Its 2018 album *Passwords* ranges from arena rock to soft rock and explores political and personal reconciliation. NPR critic Stephen Thompson calls it "smooth and ingratiating California folk-rock that never bothers to hide its big, beating, bleeding heart." **Jon Muq** is a Ugandan pop-rock singer-songwriter whose career started when Norwegian Cruise lines hired him after an online video of him entertaining a group of children went viral. Now based in Austin, and being taken under the wing of The Black Keys' cofounder Dan Auerbach, Muq has gained a following for his honest songwriting and the joyful clarity of his voice. "The velvet-voiced Muq embroiders his songs with all the euphoria and heartbreak that come with searching for a foothold in new, unfamiliar territory," writes *No Depression.* **The Crane Wives** is a Grand Rapids Americana folk-rock quartet fronted by the soulful singer-songwriter duo of guitarists Emilee Petersmark and Kate Pillsbury. **Rabbitology** is the stage name of quirky Michigan-based alt-folk singer-songwriter Nat Timmerman. Tonight's emcee is Massachusetts blues-folk singer-songwriter **Ryan Montbleau.** 7 p.m.

★**"Fairview": U-M Basement Arts.** See 30 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Seanscéal: Stories of Ireland": U-M Léim Irish Dance. This student dance ensemble performs soft- and hard-shoe Irish dances full of high kicks and fancy footwork. *7 p.m., Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. $10 at the door only. irish.dance.leim@gmail.com.*

Jen Kober: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 29 Thursday. 7:15 & 9:45 p.m.

Fifth Saturday Contra Dance: 'Groundhog Glide': Pittsfield Open Band/Ann Arbor Community for Traditional Music and Dance. Maeve Devlin calls to live music by the Pittsfield Open Band. Bring clean nonslip flat shoes. Beginners' intro at 7 p.m. *7:30–10 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse. $5 or pay what you can. soilefflux@gmail.com.*

"Wine, Women, & Song XXIV: Songs in the Keys of Life": Kerrytown Concert House. See 30 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Little Shop of Horrors": The Neutral Zone Royal Players.** See 30 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

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Discover The J. Sinclair in Kerrytown. 4BD, 4.5BA, 3,245sf luxury condo with 10ft ceilings, gourmet kitchens, spa-inspired en-suites and stunning outdoor living spaces. Geothermal heating & cooling. $2,806,000. Lisa & Brynn Stelter. 734-645-7909.

2559 Timber Glen Drive, Ann Arbor
4BD, 3BA w/ wood floors, soaring ceilings, stone gas fireplace, chef's kitchen, sunroom, loft, first-floor office/bedroom, finished patio, and 2.5-car garage. Space for family & entertaining. $755,000. Michelle Berkland Shulman. 734-730-4827.

2477 Winged Foot Court, Ann Arbor
Stonebridge detached condo. 3 BD, 3 BA with main-floor living, private upstairs guest suite, granite kitchen, deck, wooded half-acre lot, finished lower level, and recent updates throughout. $599,000. Brynn Stelter. 734-277-2531.

1091 Green Road, Ann Arbor
Beautiful 3268 SF. 4BD, 3.5BA Cranbrook custom. Gas Fireplace, chefs kitchen & composite deck. Spacious bedrooms, 3 car garage w/ Lvl 2 EV charger. Expansive walk-out basement to enjoy peaceful backyard. $1,440,000. The Ryan Team. 734-645-5703.

4955 Quincy Court, Saline
Stunning 4BD, 3.5 Bath, 5,371 SF home in Travis Pointe. 2-Story entry, hardwood floors, and dual fireplace shared with the office. Luxury kitchen w/granite countertops. Spacious main-level primary suite. $950,000. Jennifer Gifford. 734-780-0655.

6756 Fleming Creek Drive, Superior Twp.
4BD, 3.5BA Arbor Hills brick colonial on wooded acre with chef's kitchen, bright family room, grand staircase, Jack & Jill bath, updated hardwood, and whole-house generator. $975,000. Barbara Eichmuller. 734-645-9054.

588 Green Road, Ann Arbor
Spacious hilltop home backing to Narrow Gauge Park with gourmet kitchen, two-story family room with fireplace, formal dining, study, and luxurious primary suite with spa bath and deck. $1,250,000. Judie Wu. 734-546-6140.

7052 Black Cherry Lane, Saline
Gallery Pointe Eeyton Model. 6 MO. till completion. 3 BD, 4 BA w/ gourmet kitchen, vaulted 1st-floor Primary suite, study, loft, finished lower level, screened deck, private backyard. $700,565. Julie Picknell. 734-395-8383.

4944 Scio Church Road, Ann Arbor
Charming 5BD, 3BA 1856 cobblestone farmhouse on 15.62 acres with chef's kitchen, multiple fireplaces, 3-season room, expansive patios, and wildlife views—minutes from downtown A2. $1,250,000. Nancy Bishop. 734-646-1333.

7914 Stony Lake Road, Jackson
Luxury meets lifestyle in this stunning 3BD, 3BA home w/ chef's kitchen, butler's pantry, cathedral ceilings & spa-like primary suite. 3-car garage, outdoor kitchen, hot tub & sunset deck. $739,000. Jill Kleine. 734-417-4580.

3095 Millbury Lane, Ann Arbor
Beautifully designed 3BD, 3.5BA, 4229 SF end-unit Brandies Model in North Oaks. Extensive wood floors, vaulted ceilings & abundant natural light. Chefs kitchen with large island flows into family room. $895,000. Nancy Bishop. 734-646-1333.

5401 Pinnacle Court, Ann Arbor
Beautiful unit at Stonebridge 2BD, 2.5BA condo on premium lot with golf course & pond views, vaulted ceilings, fireplace, deck, main-level primary suite, flexible office/den & finished lower level. $779,000. Lyla Icaza. 734-678-3863.

7124 Black Cherry Lane, Saline
Gallery Pointe Belford. Still time to customize! 4 BD, 3.5 BA w/ gourmet kitchen, great room, 1st-floor primary suite, study, loft, finished walkout LL, screened deck, premium site w/ nature views. $899,194. Julie Picknell. 734-395-8383.

413 Blossom Drive, Ann Arbor
5BD, 5BA Toll Brothers home w/ open layout, gourmet kitchen, study & mudroom. Luxe primary suite, finished basement w/ steam shower, paver patio & lush yard. Close to shopping & downtown A2. $950,000. Patti Eddy. 734-646-2705.

720 Risdon Trail S, Saline
Stunning new construction 3BR, 2.5BA on premium lot w/ no rear neighbors. Features $100K+ in upgrades, chef's kitchen, sunroom, loft, office, & daylight basement. Modern style meets serene privacy.
$599,950. Carmen Knick. 734-417-7307

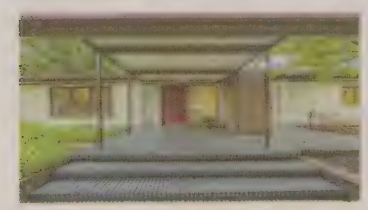
1212 Wells Street, Ann Arbor
4BD, 3.5BA 1910 Burns Park home with 2005 addition, open floor plan, eat-in kitchen, family room with fireplace, dual staircases, and large attached garage—just steps from the park and school. $905,000. Naomi Dillen. 734-619-9997.

3341 Roseford Boulevard, Ann Arbor
Beautiful end-unit villa with pond views, main-floor primary, open kitchen with quartz, vaulted ceilings, Trex deck, upstairs loft, large egress basement, and access to a full clubhouse with amenities. $660,000. Matt Miller. 734-476-4869.

220 S Seventh St, Ann Arbor
Historic Westside 3BR, 2BA charmer blending classic character w/ modern updates. Fresh paint, new flooring, newer furnace, excellent walkability near downtown, Kerrytown & U-M. HDC-approved addition plans included. $550,000. David Malcolm. 734-395-8606.

2875 Trailwood Lane, Ann Arbor
Unique equestrian estate on 10 acres! 3BR, 3.1BA home w/ walkout level, stable w/ 11 stalls, heated tack room, 60x152 indoor arena, pastures, pond, workshop & party room—minutes from town. $994,000. Leslie Sapp. 734-834-4454.

751 Haywood Drive, Saline
Like-new Bella Terrace home with gourmet kitchen, sunroom, flex room, loft, and spacious primary suite. Features LVP flooring, 2-car garage, and full plumbed basement. $599,800. Kirk & Jessy Glassel. 517-812-7038.



3586 E Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor
MidCenturyModern,designedbyRobert Metcalf, nestled into a wooded hilltop setting adjacent to Braun Nature Area. Open & airy abode, nicely updated while maintaining original integrity. $850,000. Nancy Bishop. 734-646-1333.

2086 Autumn Hill Drive, Ann Arbor
Stunning Walnut Ridge home. 4 BD, 6 BA with vaulted Primary suite, chef's kitchen, sunroom, 2-story family room, finished walkout basement with wet bar & sauna, deck, and landscaped private yard. $1,669,000. Kathy Li. 734-272-9853.

7545 Werkner Road, Chelsea
Immaculate 4 BD, 2.5 BA on 2 acres with hardwood floors, office, fireplace, gourmet kitchen, Primary suite with jetted tub, finished basement, Azek deck, patio, 2.5-car garage & storage shed. $598,000. Skye Shultz. 734-255-6200.

408 Longshore Drive, UnitA, Ann Arbor
Discover The J. Sinclair in Kerrytown. 4BD, 4.5BA, 4689sf luxury condo with 10ft ceilings, gourmet kitchens, spa-inspired en-suites and stunning outdoor living spaces. Geothermal heating & cooling. $2,858,000. Lisa & Brynn Stelter. 734-645-7909.

4000 Musbach Road, Grass Lake
188 expansive acres & a spacious log home with 4BR/4BA. Big kitchen, dining and butlers pantry. Guest apartment, large garage with workshop, pole barn, and endless potential. $2,500,000. Debora Englebert. 734-649-7437.

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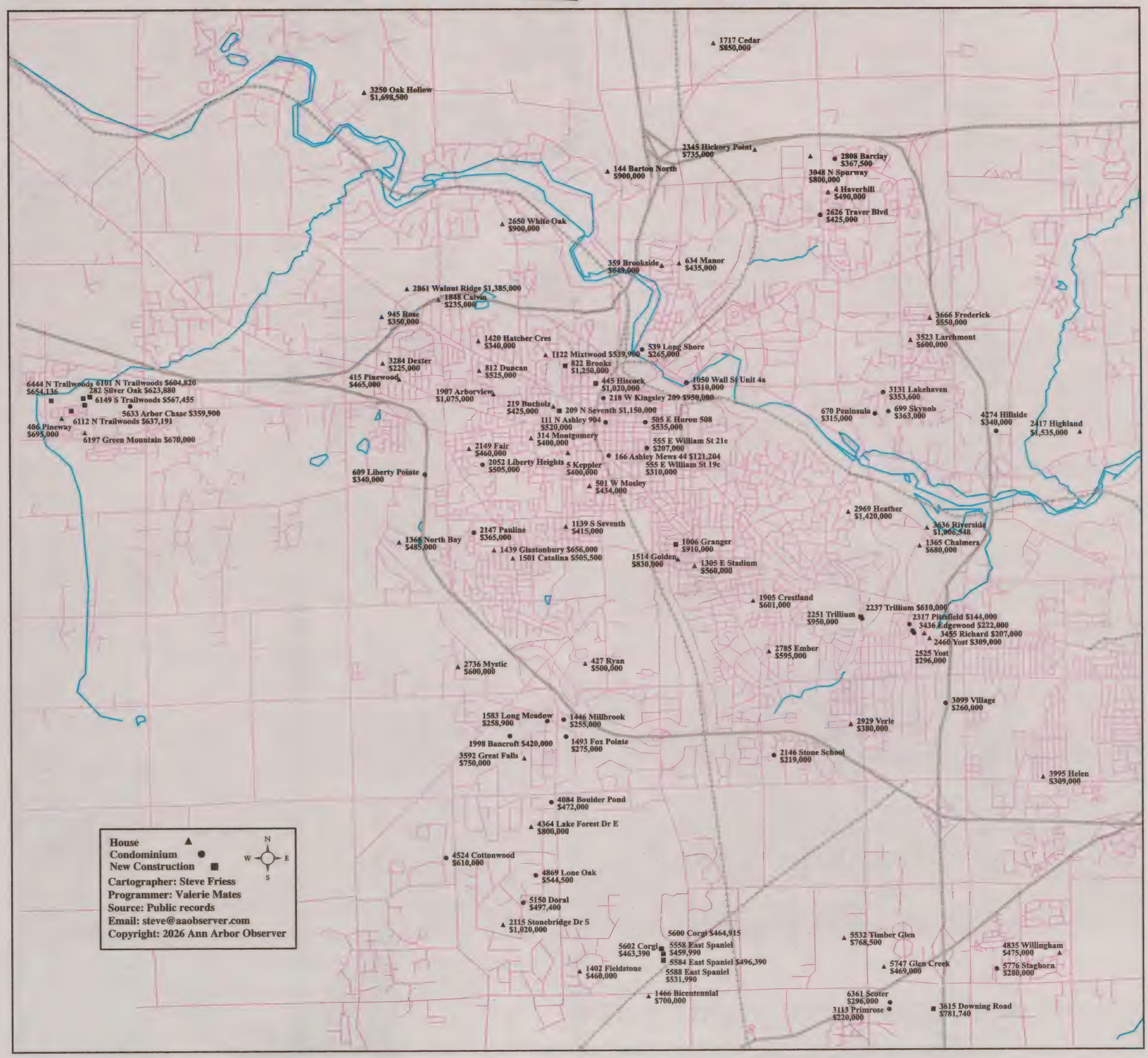
NOVEMBER 2025

HOME SALES



You build me up: This month saw an unusual number of sales—at least five—of homes that were either rebuilt or so substantially renovated as to qualify as new construction. They include 822 Brooks St., sold for $1.25 million after being bought for $330,000 in March 2024; 1006 Granger Ave., sold for $910,000 after being bought for $373,000 in March 2024; 1907 Arborview Blvd., sold for $1.1 million, bought for $325,000 in March 2025; 209 N. Seventh St., sold for $1.15 million, bought for $300,000 in April 2022; and 445 Hiscock St., sold for $1.02 million, bought for $400,000 in April 2021. Perhaps of most interest are those last two, sold by Deinco, the longtime student-rental conglomerate founded by Pete Deininger. While flipping homes isn't what they're known for, the company is pushing into new forms of development; in July, council okayed a plan to knock down the nineteenth-century home at 318 E. Jefferson St. and replace it with a townhouse-style construction of six high-end rentals.

Veridian unit resale: The state's first all-electric, net-zero development off Platt Rd., much of which is still under construction, hit an apparent milestone this month with the sale of 2237 Trillium Ln., a 1,200-square-foot, 2-bedroom, 2.1-bath townhouse for $610,000. That's up from the $585,495 the original owner spent in January for it from the builder, 2270 Platt LLC. Of the various models on offer at Veridian, Park Homes appear to be the rarest (only six units built) and the only one already fully sold out with no plans for more.

This Old Mail-Order Home: In the 1930s, when the original owners at 501 W. Mosley St. sent away for the Montgomery Ward kit that would become their house, affordability was likely a consideration. For a few thousand dollars, depending on the model, the customer received the necessary prefabricated pieces for what became a 960-square-foot, three-bedroom, one-bath home. This month, that once-inexpensive abode at the edge of the Old West Side's Wurster Park sold for $434,000; even if it cost the high end of the Ward-kit range of $5,000 in 1930 and rose only on inflation, it would be worth a around $95,000 today.

—Steve Friess

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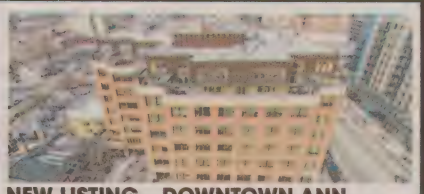
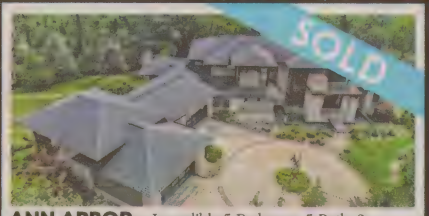


NEW LISTING – DOWNTOWN ANN ARBOR PENTHOUSE – This offering presents one of the most premier condo units to every hit the market in Ann Arbor featuring panoramic views of the southern Ann Arbor skyline and UM Stadium. The condo was designed to emulate a historic Paris lifestyle where timeless architecture meets modern luxury. This property was created using only the finest in design, materials, and craftsmanship and is offered fully appointed including many historically significant furnishings. $7,000,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



ANN ARBOR – Incredible 5-Bedroom, 5-Bath, 2 ½-Bath, Frank Lloyd Wright inspired, custom built home on a wooded 3-acre lot overlooking the Huron River Valley. The Prairie Modern style home was built with only the finest in Design, Materials, and Craftsmanship. No expense was spared to create one of the most incredible homes in Ann Arbor. Highlights include two story living room, gourmet kitchen, heated screened porch, luxury primary bedroom suite, finished walk-out lower level, and 8 car garage. $4,500,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NICHOLS ARBORETUM FRONTAGE – This stunning 5-Bedroom, 4 ½-Bath Mid-Century Modern inspired home features panoramic views of The Arb and has been meticulously updated throughout. The architectural details of this home are spectacular. Highlights include expansive Great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, custom kitchen with quartz counter, luxury primary bedroom suite, and finished walkout lower level. $1,600,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR HILLS – Incredible Metcalf design Mid-Century Modern home in the Heart of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhood. This 5-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bath home rests on a private lot featuring mature trees and extensive landscaping. The interior features dramatic MCM architecture at every turn. Highlights include living room with fireplace and 11' ceilings, raised balcony, fantastic dining room, primary bedroom suite with private bath, and finished lower level. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Incredible custom built 4-Bedroom, 6-Bath southern Colonial on a spectacular 1.1 acre wooded lot in York Township. This setting is gorgeous with mature oak trees, large deck, patio, and welcoming front porch. The interior is loaded with quality finishes. Highlights include custom kitchen with granite counters, family room with fireplace, den, luxury primary bedroom suite, 2nd floor bonus room, and finished walkout basement. $1,250,000 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

UM STADIUM – This charming 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Sears Kit Home rests in the shadow of Michigan Stadium and is located an easy walk to Downtown Ann Arbor. The home is loaded with high character touches of the ear and features wonderful modern updates. Highlights include all hardwood floors throughout, living room with fireplace, updated kitchen, spacious bedrooms, updated main bath, and finished basement. Large backyard for football tailgates. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

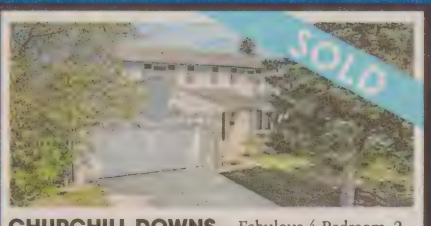
NORTH OAKS VILLA – Perfect 3-Bedroom, 3 ½-Bathroom condo in one of the areas most desired condominiums. This unit is on premium setting overlooking protected common area. The interior is in like-new condition and feature hardwood floor throughout the main level, open concept kitchen with designer cabinets, quartz counters, and stainless steel appliances, open concept great room with vaulted ceiling, luxury main-level primary bedroom, and partially finished lower level. $729,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LOGAN ELEMENTARY – This 4-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bathroom two story home in north east Ann Arbor is completely updated and simply gorgeous. The home rests deep within the neighborhood on a gorgeous lot with mature trees, extensive landscaping, and large deck. The interior sparkles. Features include hardwood floor throughout, updated kitchen with updated cabinets and granite counters, open concept family room with vaulted ceiling, first floor study/4th bedroom, and fantastic primary bedroom suite. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENNTENNIAL PARK – Wonderful 4 Bedroom, 2 ½-Bath Colonial walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. The setting is fantastic and feature extensive landscaping, patio, and large backyard. The interior includes a dramatic two-story great room, open concept kitchen with large eating space, first floor den, great primary bedroom suite, and finished basement. $699,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LANSDOWNE – This wonderful 4-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bath Colonial features one of the best backyard settings you will see with large deck, mature trees, extensive landscaping, and fenced yard. The interior is fantastic and features newly refinished hardwood floor throughout, updated kitchen with granite counter tops, family room with fireplace, spacious formal living and dining rooms, and wonderful primary bedroom with attached bath. $679,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

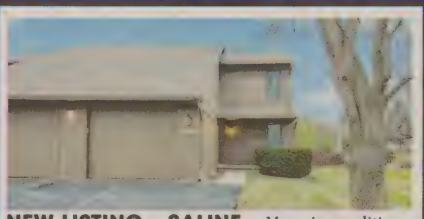
CANTON – Rare find!! This 3-Bedroom, 2-Bath Ranch sits on a spectacular 10-acre parcel in the heart of this metro area. You will love the private secluded setting that includes a 30 x 40 pole barn with large fenced area and the mature woods backing to Fellows Creek Golf Club. The home features a welcoming living room, spacious kitchen, flex-use family room that could be a primary bedroom suite, and oversized garage. $549,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



CHURCHILL DOWNS – Fabulous 4-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bathroom Colonial located in one of Ann Arbor's most popular West Side neighborhoods. You will love living just minutes from UM Stadium, Central Campus, and downtown Ann Arbor. This home features a wonderful private lot with great landscaping and complete privacy. Interior highlights include updated flooring on the main level, open concept family room with fireplace, great kitchen with tons of cabinets, and finished walkout basement $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CHELSEA – This 4-Bedroom, 2 ½-Bathroom colonial in Chelsea Fairways is simply fantastic! The location is perfect just minutes to Downtown Chelsea and quick access to I-94. The home backs to neighborhood common area and features a great backyard and large deck. Interior highlights include an open concept living room, large kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, wonderful primary bedroom suite, and walkout basement. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Like new, 3-Bedroom, 2-Bathroom detached, ranch style condominium in one of the area's most sought after complexes. You will love the setting of this unit offering a private backyard setting and located just minutes from shopping and I-94. The interior sparkles and features an open concept living room, spacious kitchen with white cabinets and quartz counters, luxury primary bedroom suite with walk-in closet and attached bath, and two spacious extra bedrooms. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**



NEW LISTING – SALINE – Move-in condition 2-Bedroom, 2-Bathroom condo walking distance to downtown Saline. You will love this easy living condo just minutes to shops and restaurants and a short drive to Ann Arbor. The unit is nicely updated and features an open concept living room, updated kitchen with large island and quartz counter tops, spacious main level bedroom, and 2nd bedroom suite on the upper level with private bath and study. $299,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR SCHOOLS – Spacious 2-Bedroom, 2-Bath Condo in Pittsfield Township just minutes to all freeways and UM Campus locations. The condo is in Roseford Village with a fantastic community pool. This easy living condo features Great Room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open concept kitchen, large dining area, wonderful primary bedroom suite with attached bath and walk-in closet, and 2nd bedroom and bath. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Memorials

JAMES MARK MANHEIM
December 12, 1957–October 14, 2025

James Mark Manheim was born in Wilmington, Delaware, to Martha and Michael Manheim. From age three, he grew up in Toledo, Ohio, where his father taught at the University of Toledo and his mother, later, at Siena Heights College, in Adrian, Michigan. He graduated from Ottawa Hills High School, where in addition to his academic excellence, he was captain of the chess team and lighting manager for theatrical performances.

Jim graduated summa cum laude from Amherst College, majoring in music. His senior thesis was about "The Point of Counterpoint in Late Mozart Piano Sonatas." By then, however, he had already begun to develop his lifelong passion for American music, especially the country music traditions of the south.

Jim moved to Chicago, then, a few years later, to the University of California at Berkeley, where he received an MA in musicology in 1987. Finding no doctoral sponsor who shared his interests, he moved to Nashville, to study his subject up close.

He came to Ann Arbor in 1988 when he heard a professor was advising dissertations in country music. This period of academic training yielded an article on the "Tennessee Waltz," published in *Musical Quarterly* (1992) and a review of a University Press of New England book about heavy metal, published in *American Music* (1995). But while he enjoyed teaching and research, he chose not to pursue an academic career.

Most of Jim's life from his early thirties onward was spent in Ann Arbor. He started his freelance writing career submitting entries on contemporary musicians to *The Encyclopedia of World Biography,* published by Thomas Gale. He also contributed to *Gale's Encyclopedia of Contemporary Black Biography,* including the first reference book article ever written about Barack Obama.

He also made substantial contributions to *Artists, Writers, and Musicians: An Encyclopedia of People who Changed the World* (2001) and to *The Great War to the Stock Market Crash: American History Through Biography and Primary Documents* (2002). Jim did primary source research of a kind that is quickly vanishing. His articles for Gale took him to places like *Essence Magazine* and to local newspapers, and he not infrequently encountered his discoveries (and prose) in other online publications.

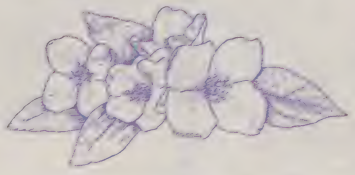
Jim worked as Publications Coordinator for the University of Michigan Museum of Art (1996–99) and Assistant Editor for allmusic.com's All Media Guide (1999–2005). For three decades, he contributed chatty, deeply informed arts reviews to the Ann Arbor Observer while cheerfully stepping into many other roles as needed, including Guides Editor, Deputy Editor, and Editor of the a2view enewsletter.

Other freelance work included many reviews of classical music albums to allmusic.com and marketing copy for The Ark, Ann Arbor's excellent music venue. He was the principal contributor to an English Idioms Threads page that boasts some 2,000,000 followers, and his voice is recognized by the hundreds of thousands of followers of a YouTube English language learning channel seated in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

As "Tex" Manheim, his voice is likewise well known to listeners to WCBN FM shows such as *The Down Home Show, Bill Monroe for Breakfast,* and the *Drive Time Polka Party.* His fellow hosts are sharing their memories of "a shrewdly brilliant son of a gun" (in the words of arwulf arwulf) here: wcbn.org/2025/12/01/jim-manheim-obituary. Jim interviewed such figures as Kris Kristofferson, and he offered insightful explanations of obscure musical treasures, playing music from old LPs he found at Goodwill stores and used record shops. He once characterized his work as rescuing music from the "scrap heaps" of history

Jim loved such discoveries; but at the same time, every career choice was calculated to provide personal freedom. Whether for a weekend in the Upper Peninsula, a road trip through the deep South looking for forgotten blues and country artists, or a hitched ride down to Mexico to fortify his Spanish skills, he always looked for something new. Mention any town or city and he'd recommend an offbeat attraction "worth the side trip." His judgment was spot on—more dependable and more eclectic than any Michelin guide. One friend put it well in an online tribute, thanking him for his "insights into the most overlooked yet interesting corners of life."

Jim moved to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in late fall 2024, where he continued his online writing commitments. Jim died there of complications from pneumonia. He is survived by his brother, Daniel Manheim, of Lexington, KY, and his nephew, Marc Manheim, of Indianapolis. An online memorial service will be announced on Dan Manheim's Facebook page in January.



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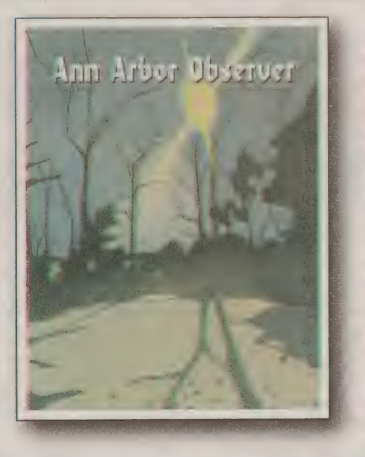
Congratulations to the lucky winners of our December drawing!

The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

December winners: Richard H. and Kara B.



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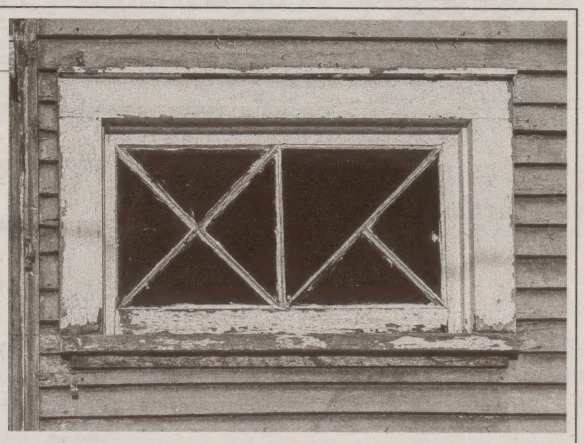
i spy

by Sally Bjork

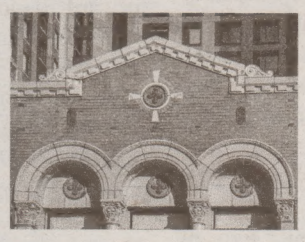


House of a famous U-M alum; now neighbor to another

"This month's I Spy is the Michigan Theater with the new high rise looming in the background," writes Michael McGraw. The photo shows the roofline and arched windows "above the Michigan Theater marquee," points out Eric Sobocinski. "I never realized the second floor was so ornate," comments Adam Goldsmith. "I mistook it for a church at first." Sara Kitzsteiner echoes that sentiment: "I was thinking this must be a church, but last night I was walking to a movie and there it was."

Behind the historic facade rises what David Bicknell identifies as "'The Legacy at Ann Arbor' on E. Washington. It's a nineteen-story high-rise, [one of] the tallest in Ann Arbor since Tower Plaza in the 1960s." As Barbara Tester writes, "The Ann Arbor skyline continues to change." Yet, as Rudolf Hauleitner writes, the Michigan Theater remains "a great landmark—from the outside as well as on the inside!"

"When I moved here thirty years ago, and saw a movie there, even before the renovations, I thought this was the most beautiful theater I had ever seen," writes David Karl. "A real jewel in the crown of Ann Arbor's arts and entertainment sector." Preserving this jewel, and the State Theatre, is the work of the Michigan Theater Foundation, rebranded in 2024 as Marquee Arts—a name not appreciated by all.



Twenty-six entrants participated in December's I Spy; all but one correctly identified the Michigan Theater. Our random drawing winner, Aviva Satz-Kojis, will enjoy her $25 gift certificate at Zingerman's.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received 144 entries correctly identifying the Fake Ad for Trade on page 81 of the December issue.

"As one who is concerned about a future lacking adequate skilled trades workers I wish your December fake ad wasn't fake," wrote Robert LaJeunesse. "As always, thanks for the entertainment, and for being so sneaky as to get us to look at most all the ads in the Observer."

"I am guessing the ad writers have fun creating these Fake Ads," wrote Lynn Palacios, "but there is plenty of truth in that we are likely facing a crisis of not enough people who are skilled and responsible who do all sorts of very important work that supports everyone!"

"I think this is more real than funny, good job!" wrote Matthew Hickey. "Electricians and plumbers bill at $200 an hour. Why spend $100,000 or more on a college degree to graduate and then work in a restaurant? I have known many people to do that."

And Eileen Kapka wrote, "Looking for the Fake Ad is one of my favorite things to do when the Observer comes. I am so amazed by the cleverness of the ad every single month. Good job!"

Our winner was Suzanne Saad Wu. As of press time, she hadn't yet shared where she'll take her gift certificate.

Want to play too? Use the I Spy image and hint to identify the Ann Arbor location. Find the Fake Ad hidden in this issue (hint: the ad always contains the last name of the previous month's winner in some form). Send your entries to backpage@aaobserver.com or PO Box 1187, AA 48106. All correct entries received by noon, January 12, will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue. Want more Back Page goodness? Order *The Fake Ad Book* and *I Spy: Ann Arbor Architecture* at annarborobserver.com/books.

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Ann Arbor Observer

What She Said

by Bree Stilwell

"I have been searching for an Ann Arbor street map on behalf of a friend who's thinking of moving to the area. Evidently, they don't make them any more, but phone maps are so limiting. Used book stores don't have any. Chamber of Commerce doesn't. Any chance you know where I can locate one? The AA Observer seems to be connected to everything Ann Arbor! Help!"

While I don't actively use paper maps myself these days, I do agree with your assessment, dear reader, and suspect so would many of your neighbors. Landline telephones, department stores, film cameras, and yes, paper road maps … all seemingly relegated to antiquity in favor of their digital age progeny.

In our collective and insatiable thirst for automation, packaged as convenience to enhance our quality of life, it's my humble yet seasoned opinion that we've more than often thrown the Champagne out with the cork. Not only do paper maps still "work," but they remain valuable in ways digital maps can't possibly be.

Nevertheless, I've been seeing signs of a societal shift toward embracing the analog. Vinyl records and CDs, dumbphones, postcards, heck, just *going outside* is back in! What I love about your question is how it's so perfectly suited for this moment.

Soapbox stashed (for now), you still need a map. After doing a bit of research of my own, I was able to find, a little ironically, an online lead. Though the known publishers of the past no longer produce the breadth of street maps they once did, you can still find existing stock with a little desk-elbow grease and some patience. Just go to maps2anywhere.com, search "Ann Arbor," and you'll find five quality products ranging from folded to flip.

But wait! There's more! Your story behind the story got me curious about how best to help a friend clearly see what an irresistible community we've got waiting for them. So, because the AA Observer is indeed connected to everything Ann Arbor, I already had the inside track to what I hope is some supplementally helpful information for your friend. I rang up my good pal, Chad Wiebesick at Destination Ann Arbor, for specifics.

Chad, with his typical exuberance, offered up their printed visitor guide and specialty brochures, which highlight everything you'd expect, as well as their fold-out walking maps of Ann Arbor's downtown districts, handy for both exploring in one's imagination and on foot.

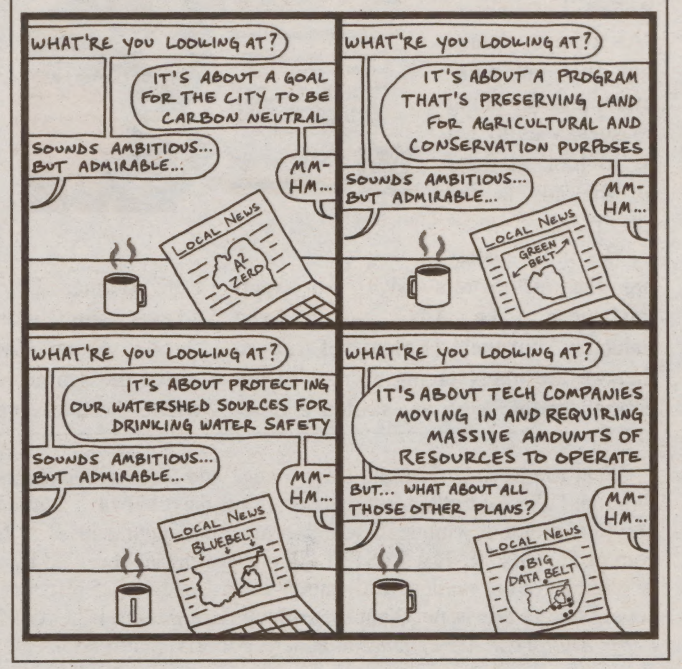
Before you head over to their Huron St. office with a shopping basket though, I'd recommend allowing them to do what they do best. "Our team is always happy to mail materials or answer questions to help new residents discover the best of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County," says Chad, neglecting to mention, however, what might be the best part—most of their services are complimentary.

I reckon it's up to us to keep these services, and our paper maps, in circulation; by asserting our need for them, spending the money when required, and sharing forward. If nothing else, I'll hope we've made for one more happy Ann Arborite on the way!

Happy New Year to all Observer readers! Have a resolution or goal you'd like a little help with? Email bree@aaobserver.com. Accepting new year specific and Ann Arbor-ish questions for February's issue.

Where did "Events at a Glance" go? The notable events we used to list separately in "Events at a Glance" are now highlighted in pink throughout the entire month of listings, beginning on page 43. You can also find them posted on our website at annarborobserver.com\events-at-a-glance on the first day of the month. The **"Only in Ann Arbor Event of the Month"** appears on the first page of listings.

Spheres of Influence *by Zac Richardson*



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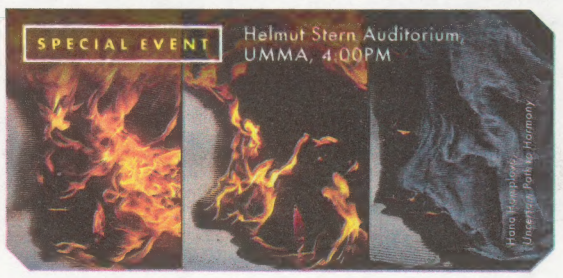
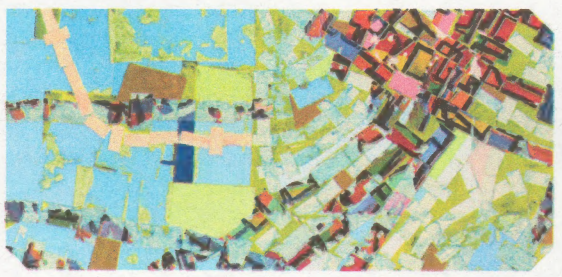
JANUARY 22
DEEPA BUTOLIYA
Architect, Industrial Designer

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
JULIE AULT
Artist and Curator, Archivist

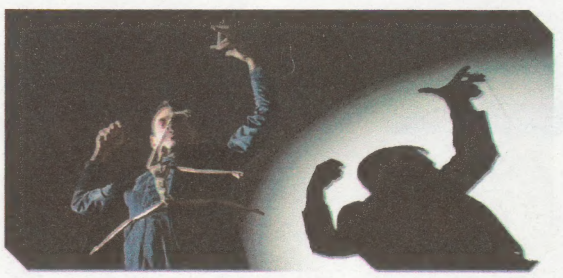


JANUARY 29
JULIA KEEFE and THE INDIGENOUS BIG BAND

FEBRUARY 05
RICK LOWE
Artist, Activist



FEBRUARY 12
BASIL TWIST
Puppeteer, Artist , Director

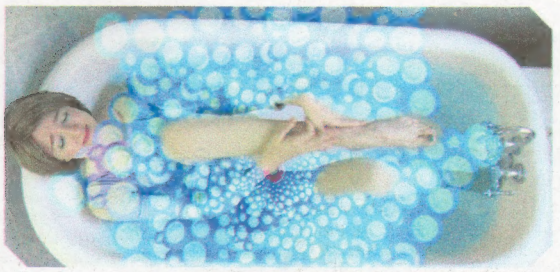


FEBRUARY 19
VANESSA GERMAN
Citizen Artist, Sculptor, Performance Artist

MARCH 12
SHAKA SENGHOR
Writer, Resilience Expert, Entrepreneur

MARCH 19
SHEIDA SOLEIMANI
Artist, Wildlife Rehabber, Educator

MARCH 26
SHANA MOULTON
Media and Installation Artist



APRIL 09
LISA HANAWALT
Animator, Writer, Cartoonist

APRIL 16
JONATHAN ADLER
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